SPORTS REVIEW

# Wrestling

August 1978

## DUSTY!!! Tribute To A Star

## SAVAGE GIRLS IN VIOLENT COMBAT

## THE ORIENTAL TERROR WHICH DRIVES ANDRE BERSERK

# How YOU can get in the best-shape of your life!

**Imagine, a body building 'System' that can give you a 'Great-Body', in record time!**

## Most men never realize their fabulous potential!

How would you like to get into shape? Really into shape. Better than you have ever been! Enough to make the girls notice you with admiration and enough to make the guys turn their heads in envy. No kidding! I don't care how much you are out of shape, regardless how much you have let yourself go, I can change your body 100%, all for the better!

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Unlike other sports, body building is a 'fun' sport that you can continue to any age. In fact, you obviously need it more as you get older. There are body builders who are in there 40's and 50's who are better built than most Olympic Champions. In fact, they are so well built they would make most professional athletes look puny in comparison.

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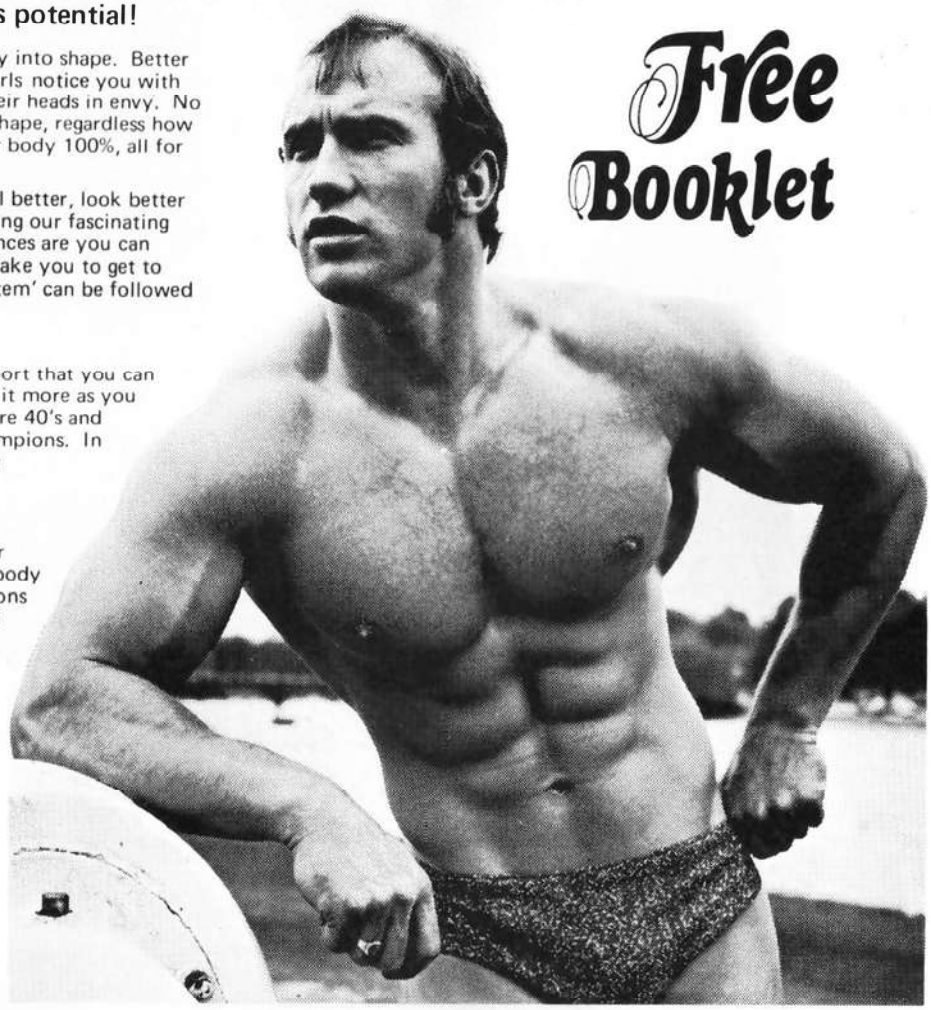


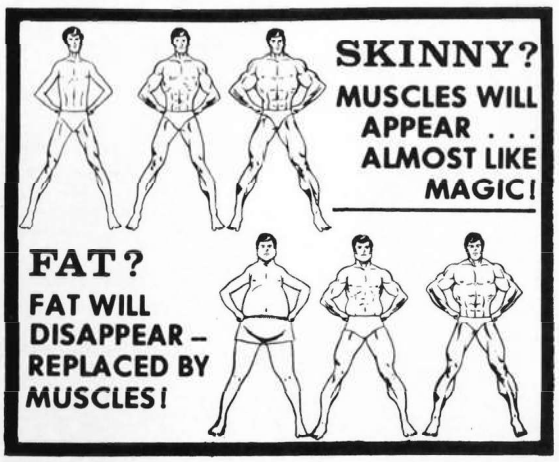


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SPORTS REVIEW

# Wrestling

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Fans of apartment wrestling will long remember this battle!

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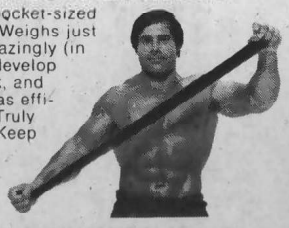

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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

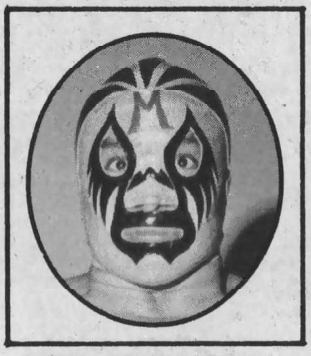
Champion: BOB BACKLUND
1—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
2—DUSTY RHODES
3—TATSUMI FUJINAMI
4—SPIROS ARION
5—MIL MASCARAS
6—LUKE GRAHAM
7—GEORGE STEELE
8—DINO BRAVO
9—PETER MAIVIA
10—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE
1—VERNE GAGNE
2—RAY STEVENS
3—CRUSHER
4—LARRY HENNIG
5—BILLY ROBINSON
6—BLACKJACK LANZA
7—BOB ORTON JR.
8—ANGELO MOSCA
9—SUPER DESTROYER
10—RUFUS R. JONES

## MOST POPULAR

1—DUSTY RHODES
2—ANDRE THE GIANT
3—MIL MASCARAS
4—BOB BACKLUND
5—RICK STEAMBOAT
6—WAHOO McDANIEL
7—MR. WRESTLING II
8—PAUL JONES
9—BILLY ROBINSON
10—CHAVO GUERRERO



MIL MASCARAS

KEN PATERA

RUFUS R. JONES

BARON VON RASCHKE

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE
1—DUSTY RHODES
2—JACK BRISCO
3—KEN PATERA
4—RIC FLAIR
5—TERRY FUNK
6—ROCKY JOHNSON
7—PAUL JONES
8—DICK SLATER
9—STAN HANSEN
10—RICK STEAMBOAT

## TAG TEAMS

1—DINO BRAVO & DOMINIC DeNUCCI
2—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
3—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN
4—MR. SATO & MR. SAITO
5—RICK STEAMBOAT & PAUL JONES
6—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
7—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
8—THE LUMBERJACKS
9—BOB ORTON JR. & BLACKJACK LANZA
10—KILLER BROOKS & LEROY BROWN

## MOST HATED

1—RIC FLAIR
2—KEN PATERA
3—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
4—DICK SLATER
5—SPIROS ARION
6—STAN HANSEN
7—GREG VALENTINE
8—BOB ORTON JR.
9—KILLER KARL KOX
10—CRAZY LUKE GRAHAM

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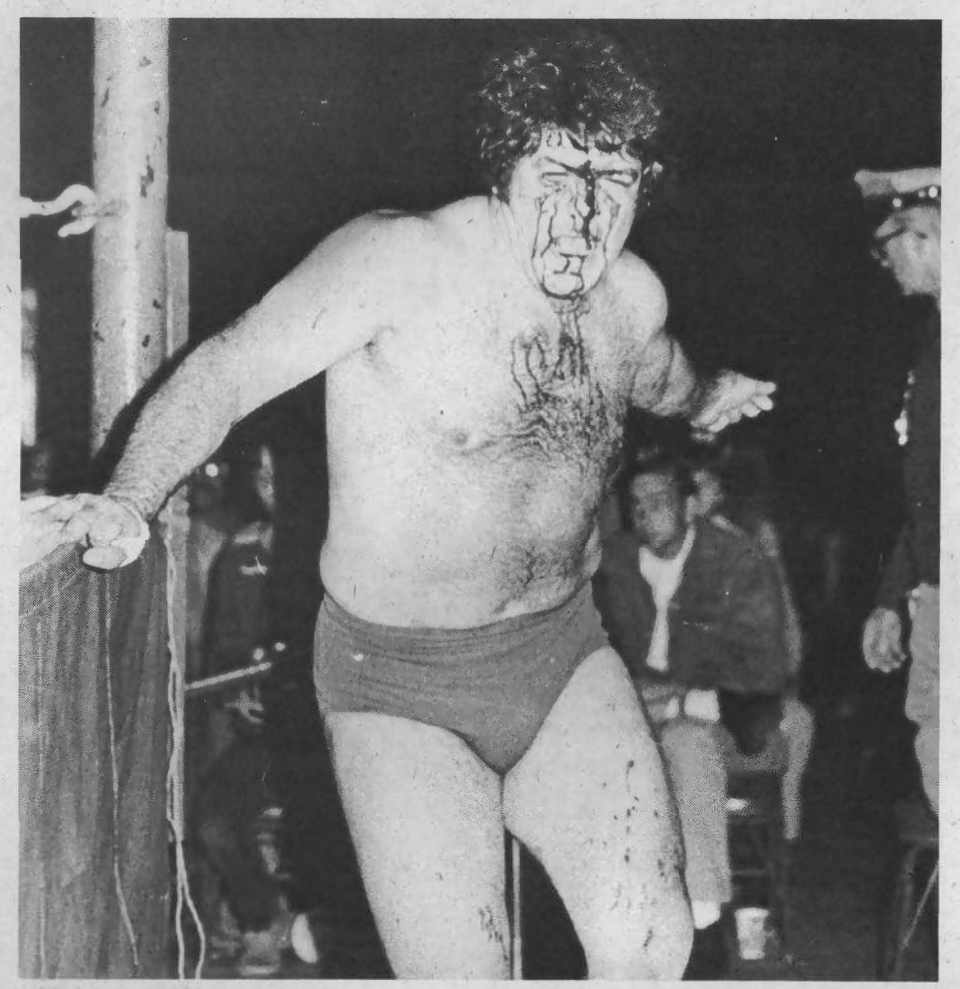
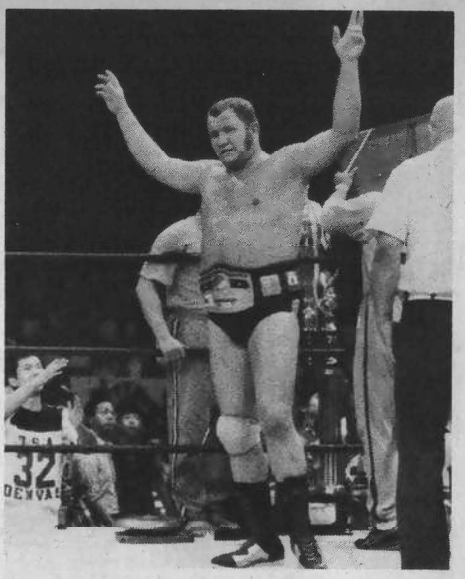


Reader Bart Figeroa says that Paul Jones (above) does not deserve to wrestle National Wrestling Alliance champion Harley Race. However many fans defend Paul's ability, citing that he is indeed one of the best competitors of today.



NWA champion Harley Race feels that most opponents should get only one chance at his coveted heavyweight championship.

**WHO ARE YOU KIDDING?**

If Harley Race ever wrestled anyone good and gave people their fair chance at the NWA belt he wouldn't be such a hypocrite like he was in Point-Counterpoint (July 1978).

It's ridiculous to say a person deserves only one chance. One chance doesn't prove a blasted thing. Especially when you're dealing with young grapplers who might be tired. Harley Race never gives a young guy a fair break. What is he talking about? He doesn't remember what it's like to be young and struggling.

Remember children, Harley? When you were younger you used to beat them up.

RICH PETERS
Hicksville, N.Y.

**I KNOW WHY**

The reason for Paul Jones' inability to get a match against Harley Race is easy to figure out. He doesn't deserve it. He's had his chance to wrestle the champions before and, as someone who saw two of his title matches, I must say he was pathetic.

I thought Jones was a gentleman, an honest man. If he is then he should admit it to himself

*(Continued on page 52)*

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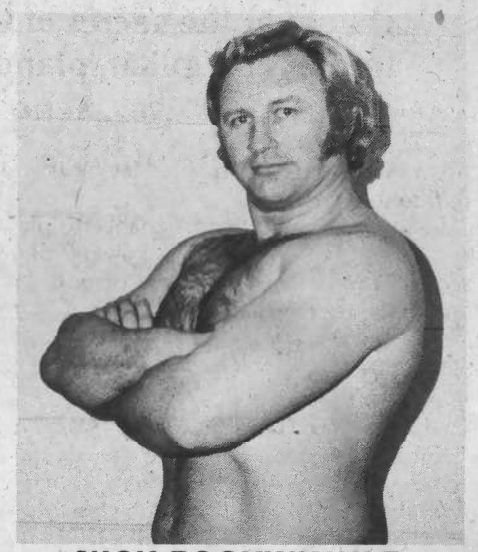

**NICK BOCKWINKLE**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS**—Guess who is still stinking up the air here—Nick Bockwinkle! We really wish he would leave already. He keeps hanging around, waiting to get Harley Race into a championship match. He's wasting his time. This battle will never come about. I have this on the best authority.

It isn't that Race is afraid of Bockwinkle. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is Harley simply does not have any desire to face Nick in the ring. There is no reason for him to put up his NWA title.

*(Continued on page 54)*

**Never before in this history of wrestling journalism have so many respected reporters been involved in so important a venture. The best wrestling correspondents from all over the country have been enlisted to report on the news behind the news. Every wrestling fan must consider this the most important column he can read!**

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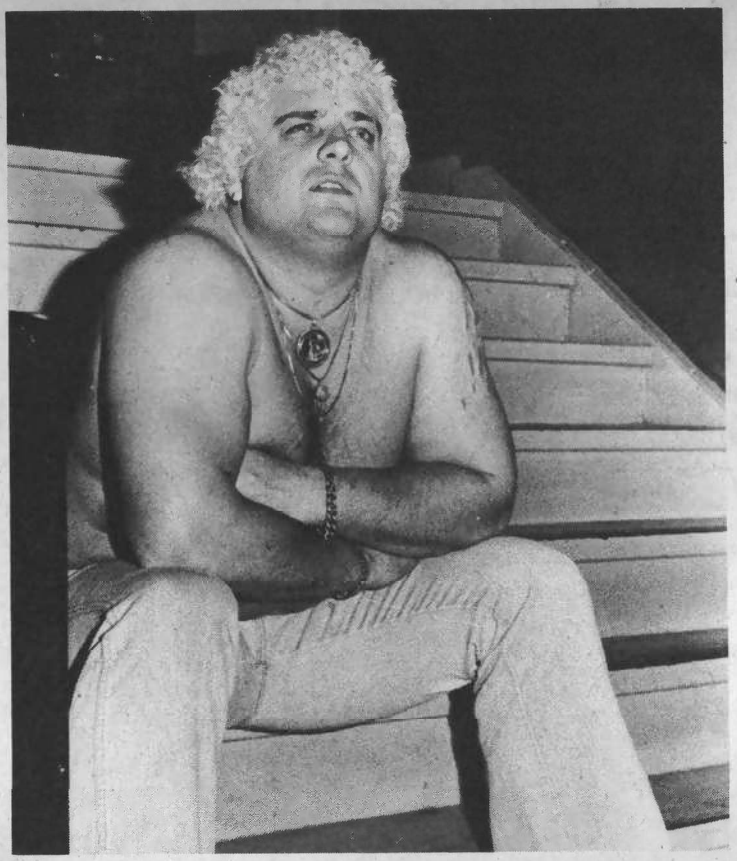
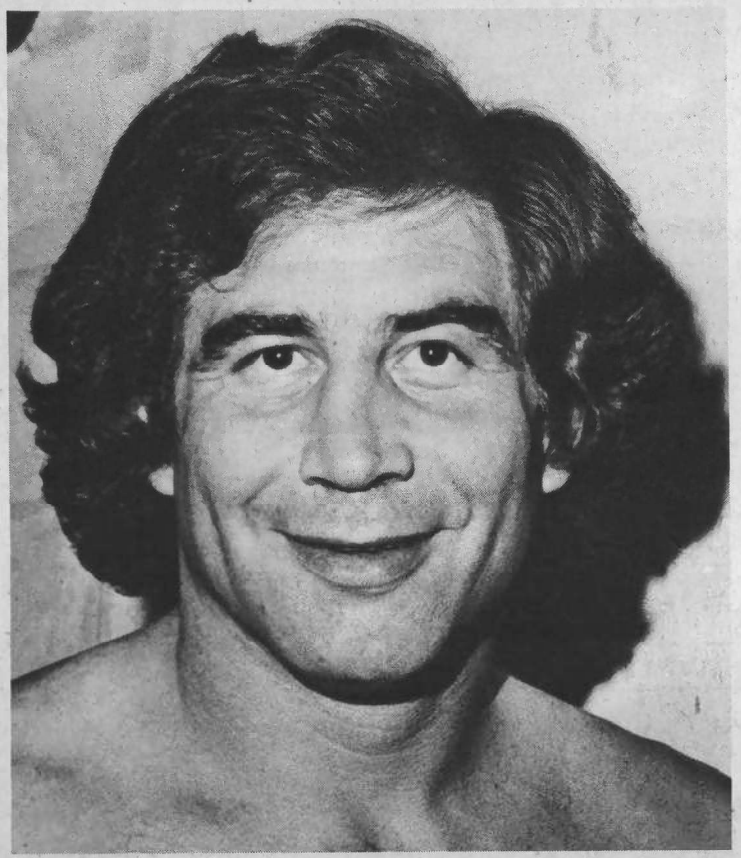


## POINT: DUSTY RHODES

**IT IS UNFAIR for wrestling fans not to have the privilege of seeing the best wrestlers around. Just because you live in Florida doesn't mean you should be denied the pleasure of watching the top guys from the West, Northeast, and so on, compete.**

**That's why I feel that there should be complete freedom for a wrestler to go wherever he wants to go. Now I've been all over the place, from Miami to New York and back down to Houston with points in between. This gives the fans a good opportunity to see me and for me to see them and entertain them, and also get their criticisms and reactions to my style.**

# ·POINT·COUNTERPOINT·POINT·C



## COUNTERPOINT: JACK BRISCO

***WHAT HAS HAPPENED to wrestling is that this great, structured sport has turned into a gypsy parade of guys roaming around looking for matches like a bunch of sailors on liberty.***

***And I don't like it.***

***There should be a certain dignity to this sport. That dignity is violated by the crazy way wrestling is being run.***

***What good is having arenas set aside for federations if no one listens to the rules? This talk about fans getting to see all different wrestlers brawl is a lot of malarkey. There are more than enough guys to entertain and thrill***

If you stay in one place, the same people see you night after night and you wrestle the same guys night after night and your style can become stagnant. Know what that adds up to?

Dull City, baby.

The beauty of this sport is for everyone to have the chance to check out other wrestlers and see what they're doing. This gives a greater flexibility to the sport and man, I'm always in favor of being loose.

Besides, the three federations aren't like separate countries where you need a passport to travel between them. By restricting wrestlers to just one part of the country and just one federation, the chances for title upsets is reduced.

Also, how can anyone hope to improve by staying glued to one spot? By jumping around I've encountered a lot of different types of grapplers and have been forced to devise new techniques. That's helped me a lot.

And then just the splendor of traveling and bopping around. By meeting new people and growing as a person you can become a better wrestler. And by being a better wrestler you please yourself and the fans.

Isn't that what wrestling is all about?

I'd hate to see any rule enacted which would deprive people of a free choice about where to wrestle. This is still the greatest and freest country in the world and it would be horrible for any law to prevent me from wrestling in Florida, New York, and Houston all within three days. □

# COUNTERPOINT·POINT·COUNTERP

*the fans without this wave of immigrants flooding the areas.*

*The great feuds that have built up over the years between area wrestlers are legendary. That is what the fans want to see. They want quality, not wrestlers too exhausted from traveling to battle well out there in the squared circle.*

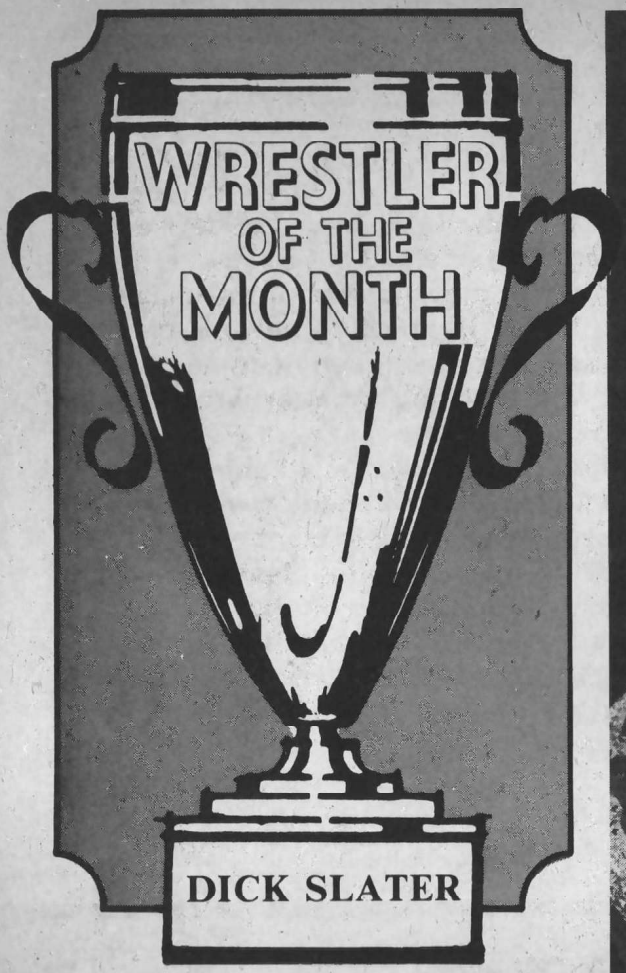
*If a guy is running around crazy, from one place to the next, how can he wrestle up to his capabilities. What happens is that fans get short-changed watching tired wrestlers when they should be watching men finely tuned and ready for the match, with only their opponent on their mind and not what time the next plane leaves for Texas.*

*When someone wins a federation belt by beating the best men of his federation, it just isn't fair for a scab from another area to cart off the belt when federation challengers are waiting eagerly for the chance.*

*To say there is not a wealth of unique grapplers within each federation is an insult to our colleagues. Within every area you have an enormous amount of disparate personalities and styles to contend with. If that doesn't force you to continually improvise, then no amount of traveling is going to help.*

*Anyone can travel and grow as a person. Why must everything be channeled through your job. I take off for different areas of the world all the time. That's how I improve as a person. But I refuse to travel and grow tired and make a mockery of a profession I'm proud of.*

*This is a great and free nation. And this country encourages everyone to strive to be the best. That's the American way. That's what I'm proud of.* □



**Like it or not, Dick Slater is the winner of this month's award. Slater has proven worthy by virtue of several victories over a short period of time. Slater is convinced that it is just a matter of time before he becomes undisputed world champion.**

TRYING TO REVAMP a vicious nature will always attract the attention of the wrestling community, especially if the man is so noted a rulebreaker as Dick Slater. But for a character reformation to coincide with a startling string of victories is deserving of more than attention. It is deserving of this award.

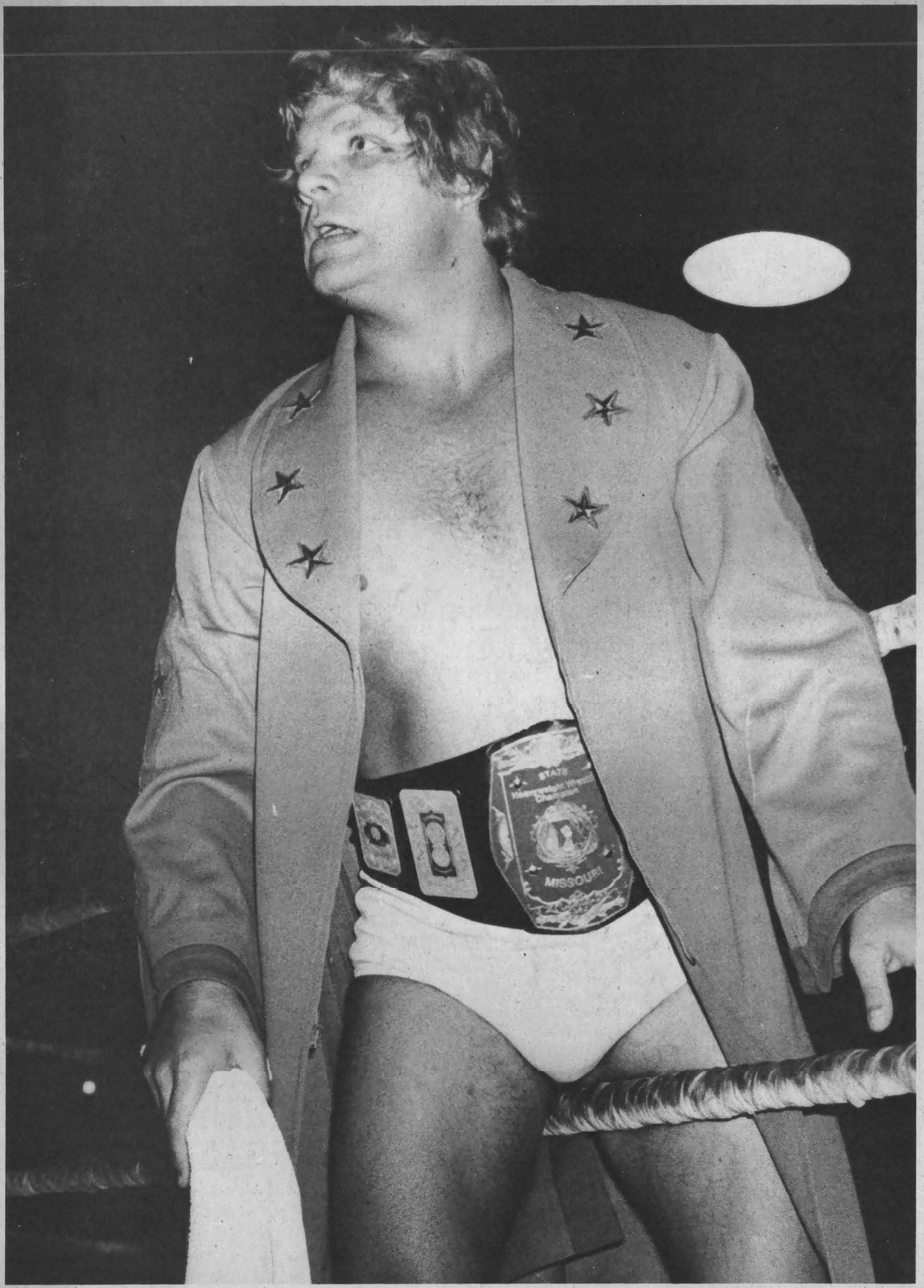
For these two reasons we are quite pleased to announce that Dick Slater has won the prestigious "Wrestler of the Month" Award.

Recently, Slater has amassed an impressive string of victories over some of the toughest grapplers in the sport. They were not easy victories. In fact, many of them edged toward the time limit with the threat of a draw looming ominously over Slater's skull. He seemed to particularly seek out the roughest challengers he could find. Many wondered why.

"I wanted to see if altering my rulebreaking image and trying to use my native abilities would really help," Slater said. "It would be one thing to try and inject scientific wrestling into my plans and

*(Continued on page 56)*

**Every month, the editors of SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING search the globe to find the one man whose achievements have surpassed those of all other wrestlers. Sometimes the selection may shock you. Other times you will be very pleased by the selection. But you will always agree our choice deserves to be "Wrestler of the Month!"**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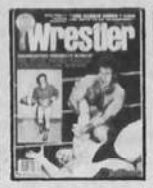
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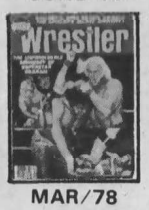
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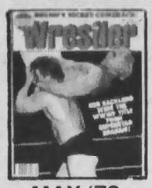
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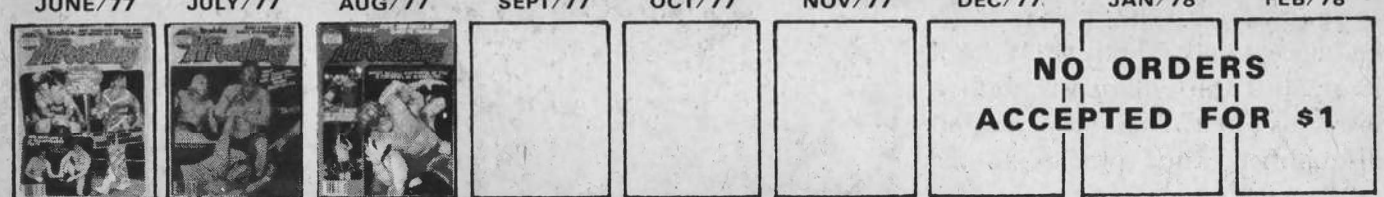

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**The sport of wrestling, like any other sport, has its share of problems. Some of these problems are so outrageous they need to be pointed out and corrected as quickly as possible. When "We Accuse" points the finger at a target, fireworks are sure to follow!**

**BY THE EDITORS**

THE INHERENT POWER of a champion is well-established. What makes this power of the reigning champion so dangerous is the ability to retain a title even when it is apparent the challenger is about to win.

This belt-saving method often employed by rulebreaking titlists is known as the disqualification. We find this to be repugnant to the entire concept of championship wrestling and a brutally unfair way of preventing these men from relinquishing their crowns.

The scenario is the same, boringly and deceptively repetitive. When it is obvious the villain is about to lose his belt, he gets himself disqualified, thus precluding the challenger from winning.

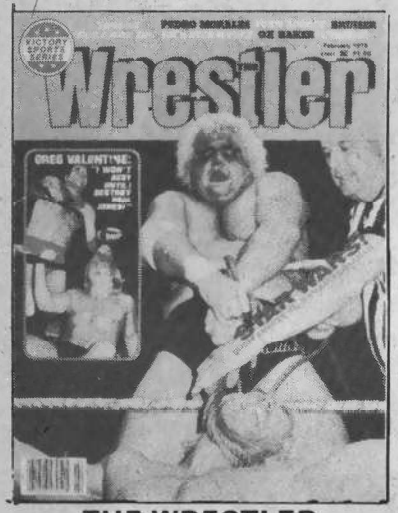
We say that this abhorrent practice must end. If a rulebreaker purposely gets himself disqualified then he loses the belt. It is just not right that a challenger, after wrestling a magnificent match and expending energy and blood should be denied his rightful title.

All this process does is perpetuate the reign of the

*(Continued on page 20)*

**Harley Race is the champion of the National Wrestling Alliance. It is no secret that Race has saved his neck and the title by getting himself deliberately disqualified when the action gets to be just too much for him.**

# WRESTLING'S GREATEST SUBSCRIPTION DEAL

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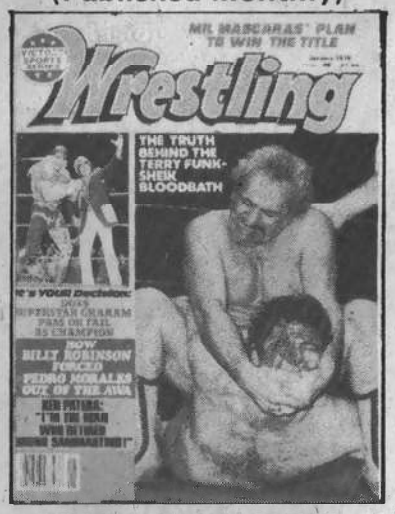


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# WE ACCUSE

(Continued from Page 18)

rulebreakers, a reign not supported by skill but by cunning and cowardice. How long does anyone think the reigns of men like Nick Bockwinkle and Harley Race would last if these villains didn't have this dubious out?

Very briefly, we assure you.

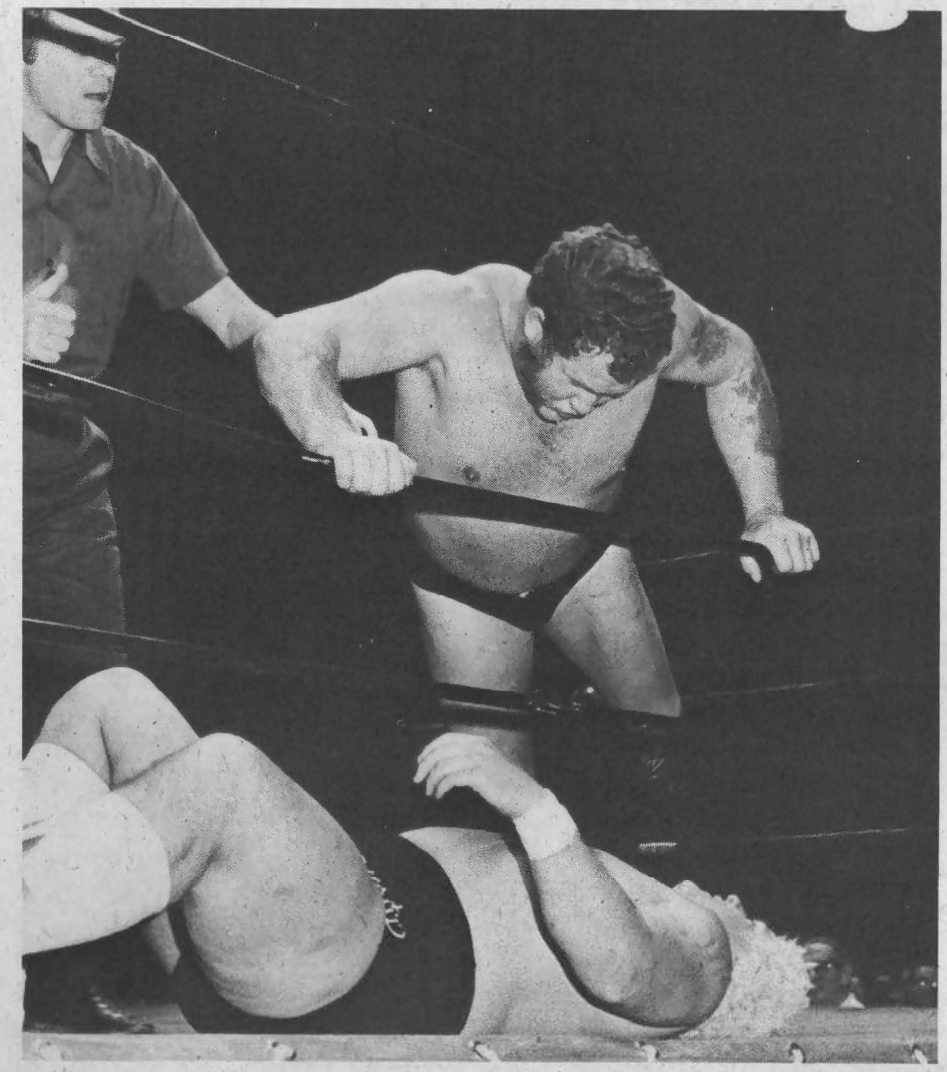
The protests from the challengers repeatedly denied their just due have been ignored for too long. It is time to listen. It is time for action.

Everyone is culpable in this farce. The referees cannot escape villification for their weak compliance with the threats of rulebreakers. They allow this to continue.

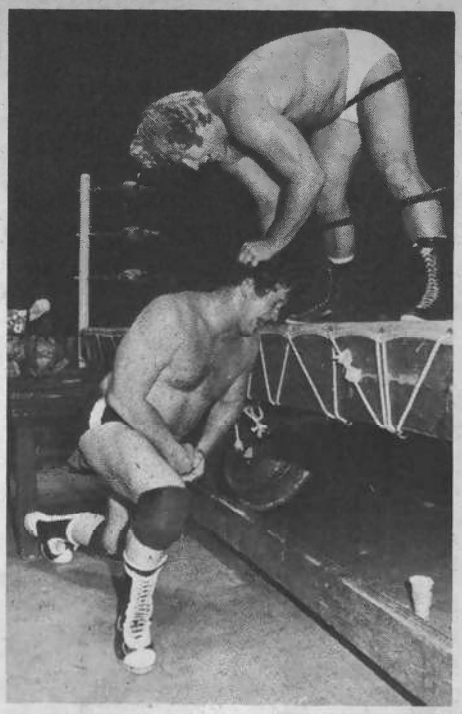
No more.

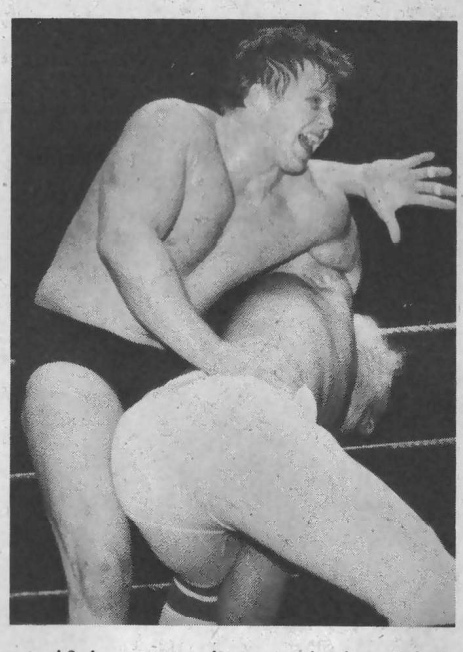
How long can this go on before the finest young wrestlers begin leaving the sport in frustration? How can such a great sport as wrestling survive without the steady replenishment of its grapplers? That is the beauty of wrestling, the annual introduction of promising young men eager to challenge for a federation belt.

This beauty is being disfigured by the rulebreaking champions, transfigured into a horrific mosaic of incongruous colors and terrifying scar tissue, within which exists their belts, supposedly protected forever.



Race is about to be disqualified in his match against number one contender Dusty Rhodes. This is just one of the reasons Dusty has been unable to win the title. Too many technicalities exist to hurt the challenger.



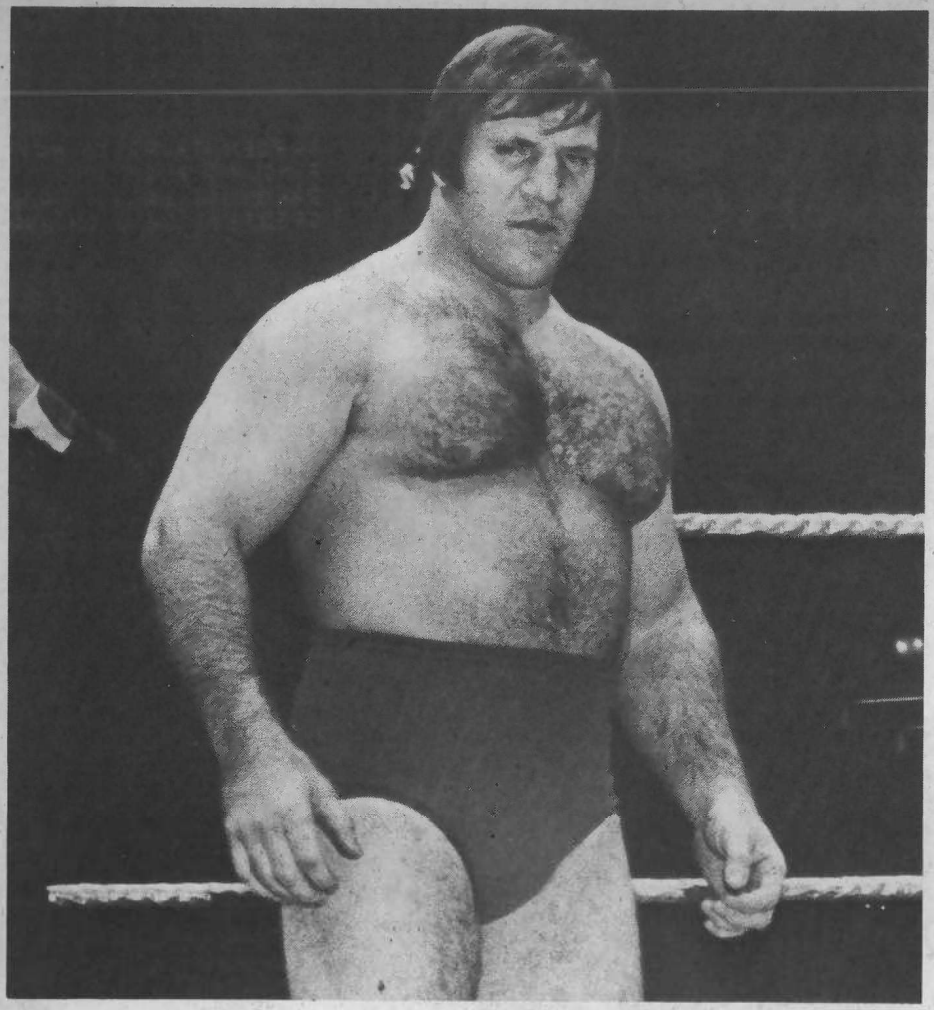


AWA champion Nick Bockwinkle is about to be disqualified against former NWA king Terry Funk (above). Bob Backlund (below) has not yet been disqualified.

We pledge the full force of our organization to changing this dreadful cycle of duplicity and cowardice. The young must have their fair chance and not be thwarted by these appalling men.

We accuse you rulebreakers of bringing disgrace to your belts. We accuse you of defaming this sport.

Now you must accept your punishment. □



Bruno Sammartino is a confused and troubled man. At this point he does not know whether to quit or continue his illustrious career.

# THE TROUBLED TIMES OF BRUNO SAMMARTINO

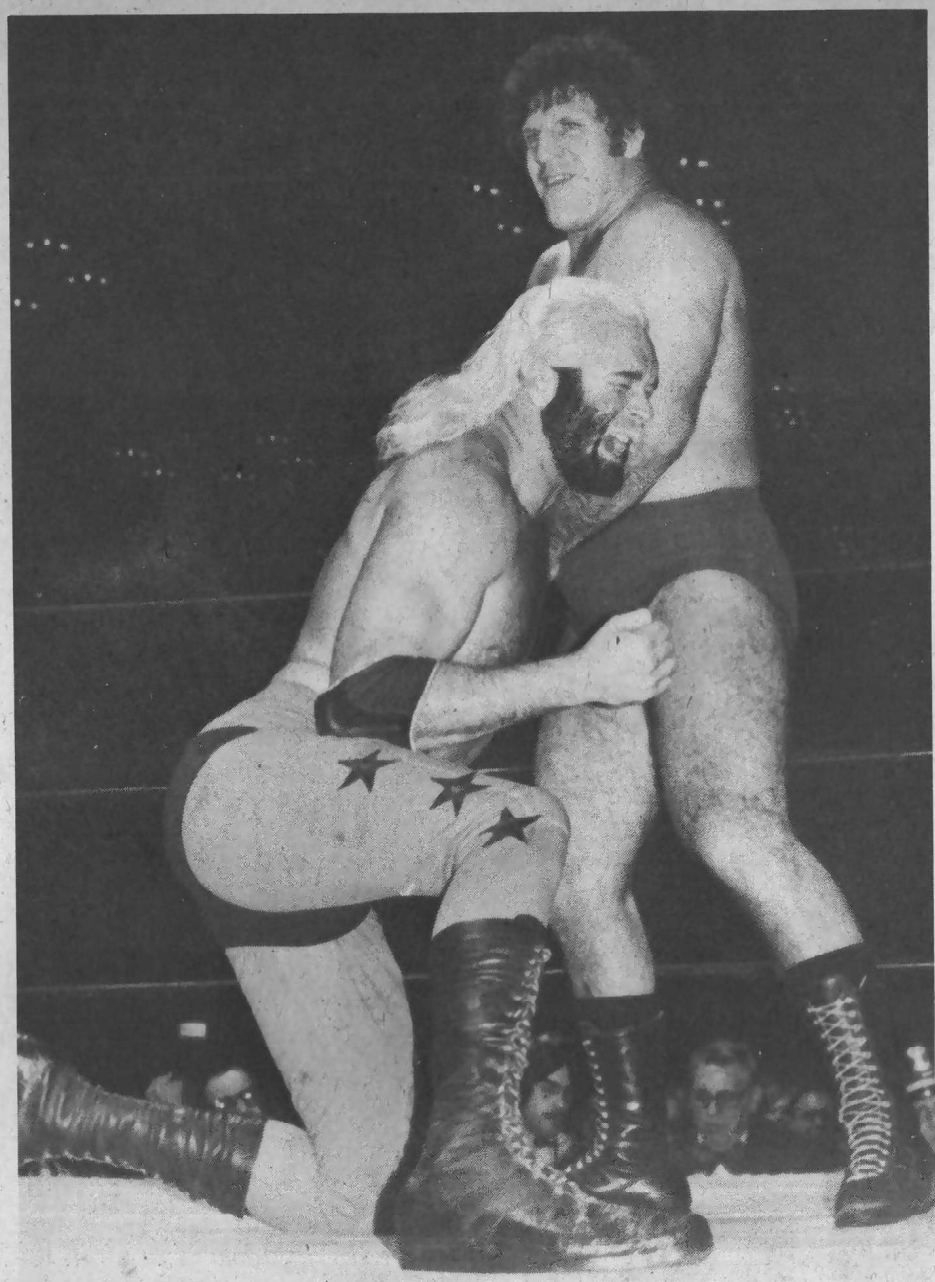
**When a man is called by those who love him, it is almost impossible to turn away. Bruno Sammartino hears his fans calling him, begging him to return to the mat wars. Can the living legend turn away?**

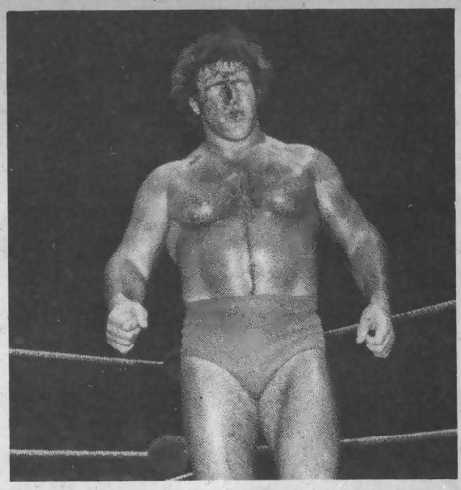
THE MEMORIES AND years flash by too quickly to savor. The elusiveness of a brilliant career suspended in indecision permeates his every gesture, pollutes his every word, hinders his every thought.

Two different roads, each riddled with questions, confront Bruno Sammartino as he stands in poised deliberation at the crossroads of his career.

Presently, the two-time WWWF champion, the adored "Living Legend," is in semi-retirement, undecided whether to make his retirement permanent or return to a full schedule.

He has been wrestling in the WWA areas, teaming with close friends Bruiser and Dominic DeNucci. He has enjoyed success, but not the success he is accustomed to. It is a calming experience to again be a man not subject to the pressures of title contention. It is also teasing,





The career of Bruno Sammartino has been bloody (above), but it has also had its share of pleasant moments. Will it soon end?

half-hearted, an existence, however uncomfortable, Bruno currently finds himself in.

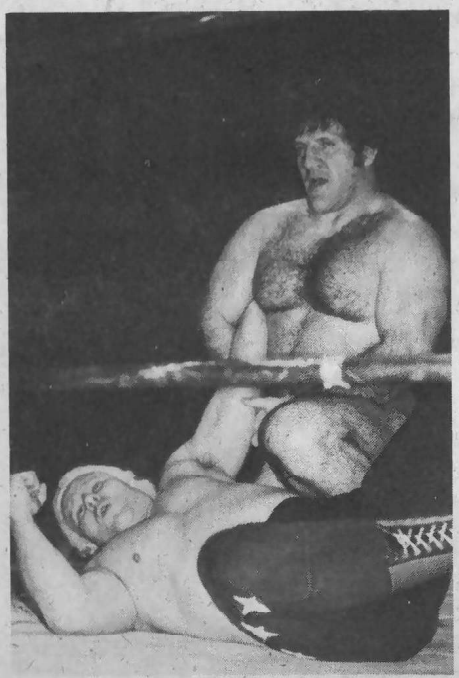
Yet the temptation to re-enter, conclusively, the national spotlight, contend again for the WWWF belt, rejuvenate the dormant allegiance of his millions of fans, is enticing. Sammartino realizes this, understands that he must make a decision, must make it now.

"At first I enjoyed this life here in my lovely home, without the brutality of those rulebreakers, without the pressures of daily competition. I have been on the road for so long it was a refreshing change.

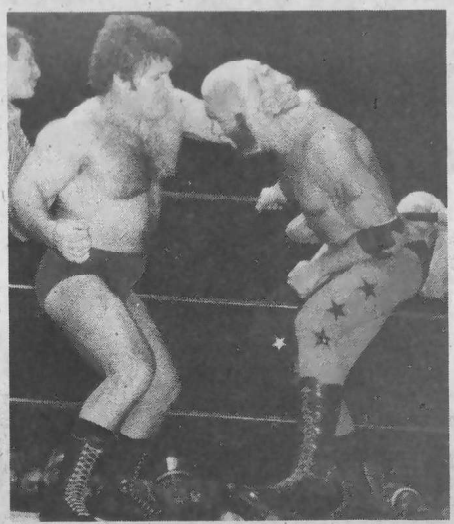
"Then I began to miss the action and the love of my fans. I keep the post office busy with all the letters I get, and the phone company prosperous with all the calls. But it is not the same, it is too far removed. You can only be the Living Legend for so long until the time comes to retire completely.

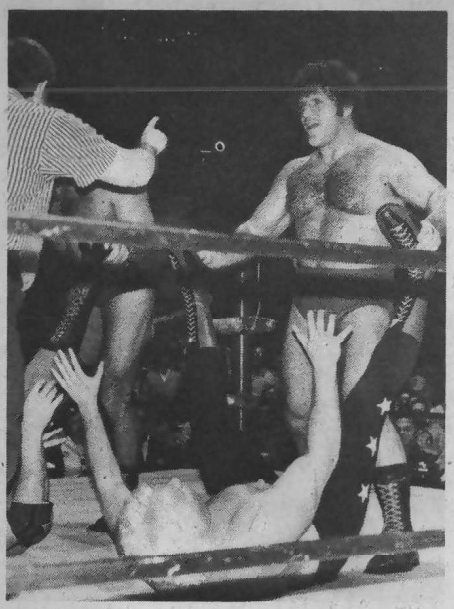
"A one point I considered that, just giving it all up. Then I looked in the mirror and saw that I would not be happy with that life. I love wrestling too much, much too much. It was then that I called Bruiser and Dominic and suggested we form tag teams.

"They were excited about the idea. Besides, it gave friends a

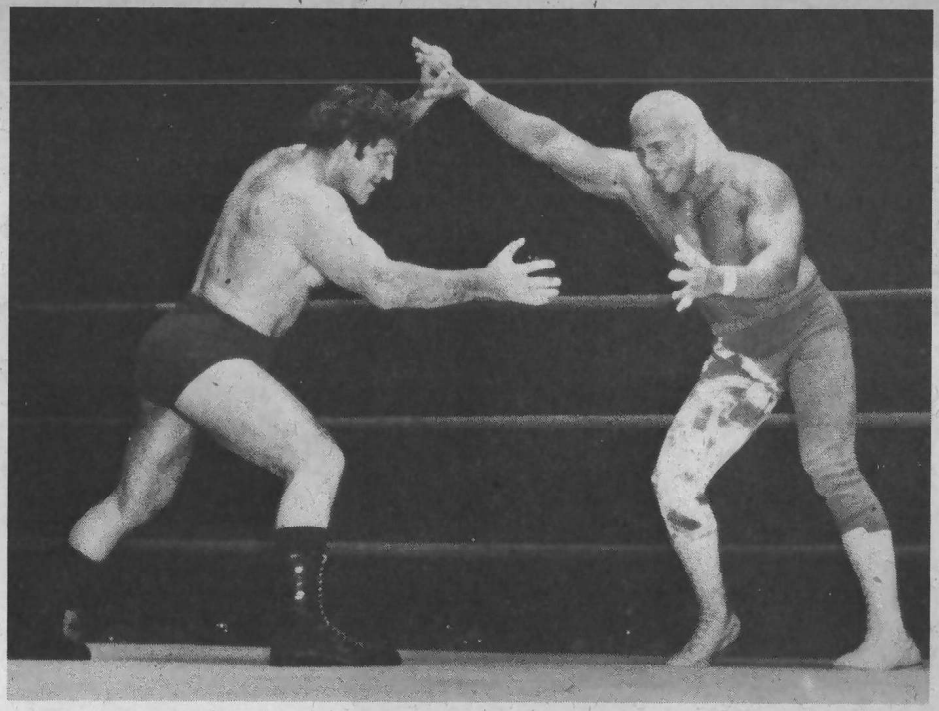


Now in the WWA, Bruno wrestles "Handsome" Jim Valiant (above). "Luscious" John is in a bind thanks to Bruno (left). The great Sammartino smashes Jim (below).

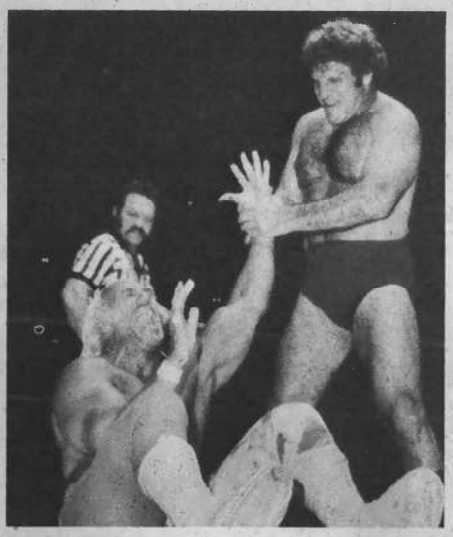




In a WWA tag team match, it's Bruno and Dom DeNucci against the Valiant Brothers (above). They gave the Valiants more trouble than they ever bargained for.



Bruno and Superstar Graham are about to lock horns in the most controversial championship match in history. After his loss to Graham, Bruno went into semi-retirement. Today he is undecided as to where his career is headed.



In the match in which he lost the WWWF title, Bruno has the advantage over the challenger Superstar Billy Graham.

chance to wrestle together and work together and be together. After the first few matches I realized how much I missed the commaraderie, the joking in the dressing rooms, the shared secrets and the cooperation which makes this such a wonderful sport.

"But there is a big difference between wrestling as a tag team partner in the WWA and meeting Bob Backlund for the title.

"You must understand that it is not any question about my abilities that is causing the indecisiveness. It is whether I want to plunge back into that sort of life. It can be a marvelous life, but it can also be tiring. At some point a man must decide if he wants to pursue some other goals or if he is happy with the career he has spent his entire life cultivating.

"I still do not know. And I can't keep away from wrestling. I read all the amgazines to keep up, watch wrestling whenever it is on television. It is in my blood, my very soul. For me to quit once and for all would be very tough. But going back into full-scale competition might not be what I want."

There has been speculation that Bruno may go to Australia and compete there, a sort of testing ground to see if he would be content again with the rigors of daily wrestling.

"Right now that would seem to be an interesting idea and one I may very well do. But what bothers me, within myself, is the inconclusive nature of a decision like that.

"Sure, I would be wrestling every day and I would find out if I want to return. I am a man of decision and I want to make the decision and live by it, not take a half-way measure. Either I quit or go on. Perhaps I need something to show me what to do. Perhaps Australia is it. Perhaps not."

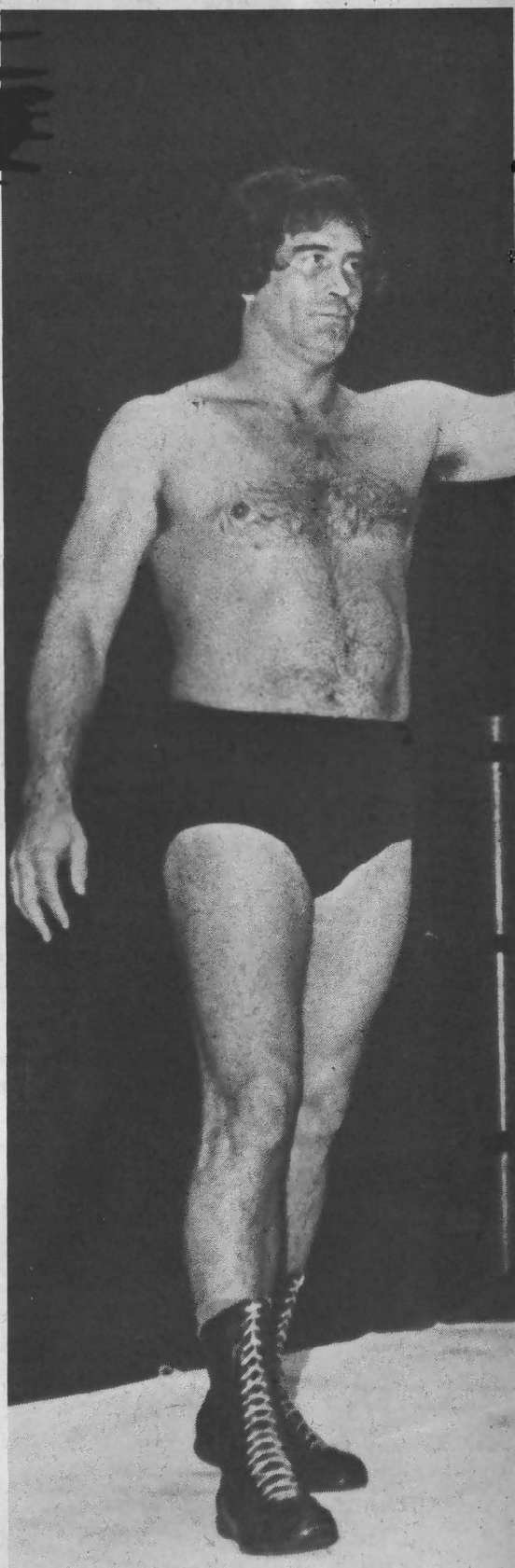
One of Bruno's closest friends, Dominic DeNucci, understands Sammartino's tortured brooding.

"Bruno is really troubled, very troubled about all this. As a friend, I can offer advice, but I can't tell him what to do. No one should ever do that. I have no right to do that. I will say that when he's wrestling he's at his happiest. He's smiling and laughing and enjoying the whole atmosphere. My personal opinion is that he's doing himself a disservice by not returning full-time to wrestling. But it's his choice."

Sammartino knows his time of decision is near. Yet he doesn't know what choice he will make.

"What do I do?" he said quietly. "What do I do?" □

# THE BRISCO BROTHERS:



# ATONING FOR THEIR SINS

ADMITTING AN ERROR is a difficult chore, amplified to anguishing degrees when the confession is publicized. Yet that is only the first step of a rather painful path. What must follow is proving that the words are not hollow and self-serving, but a declaration supported by deeds.

For Jack and Jerry Brisco, deeds were all they cared about.

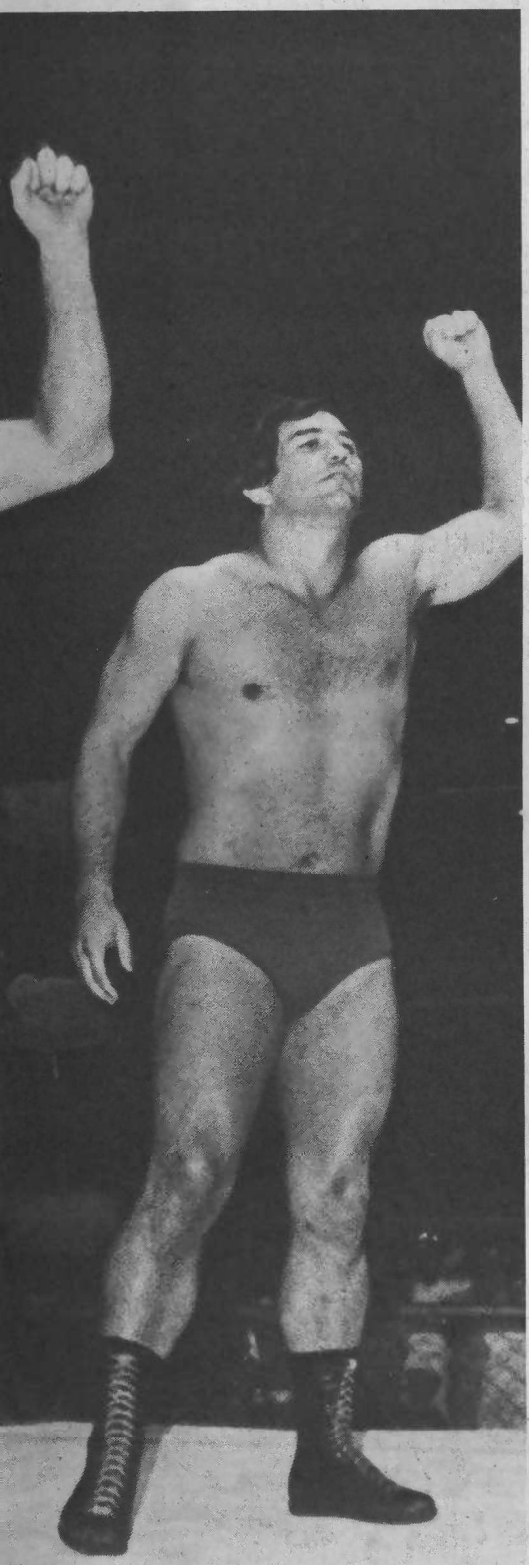
In a recent U.S. Tag Team title match with Mike Graham and Steve Keirn, the Briscos implemented several questionable tactics which propelled the entire bout into a rulebreaking brawl (see THE WRESTLER/ August 1978). What made that match so alarming was not only the uncharacteristic over-aggressiveness of the Briscos, but that this over-aggressiveness was dumped upon a long-time friendship with Graham and Keirn.

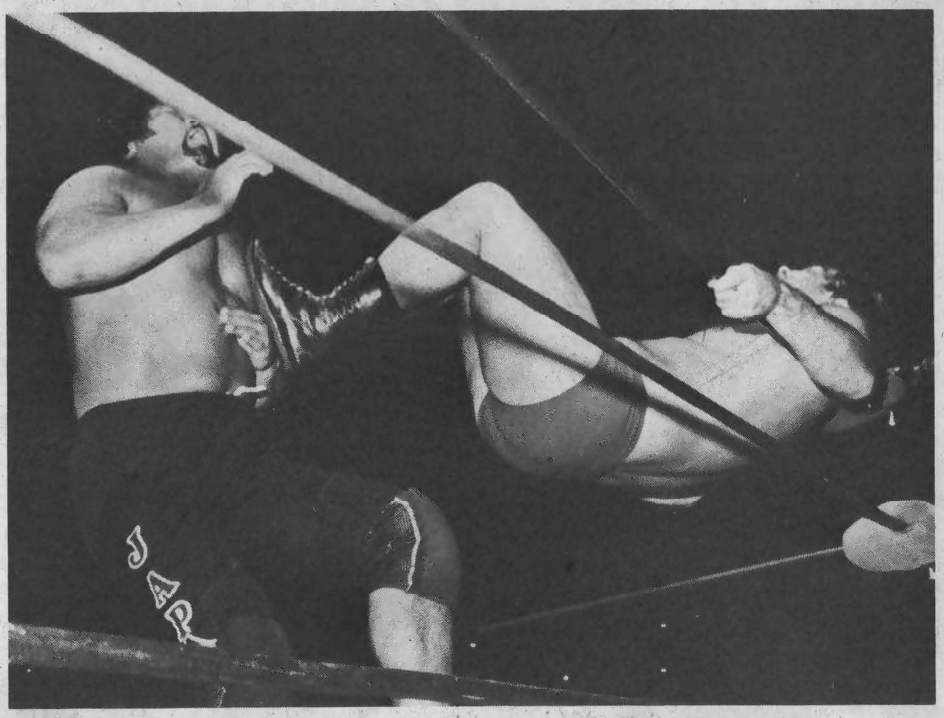
The Briscos were harshly criticized by both fans and friends for their behavior that evening. A fear grew that thirst for a tag team title had blinded them to their philosophy of wrestling integrity. Greed had ruined other wrestlers. It appeared that it might destroy Jack and Jerry as well.

Thus, set against this orchestra of doubt, the Briscos met the Florida tag team champions, Mr. Sato and Mr. Saito. Jack and Jerry had

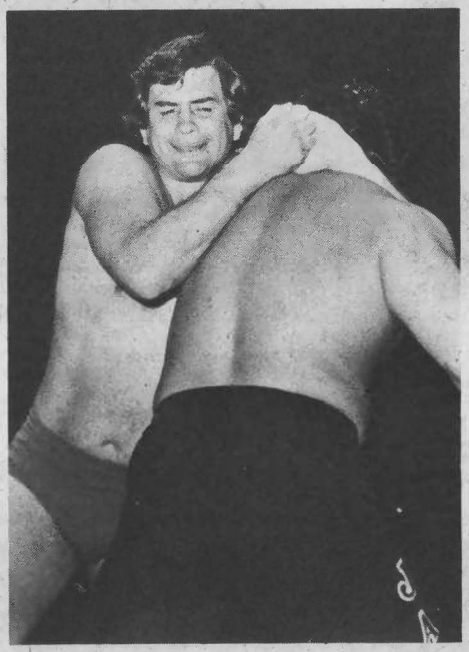
*(Continued on page 58)*

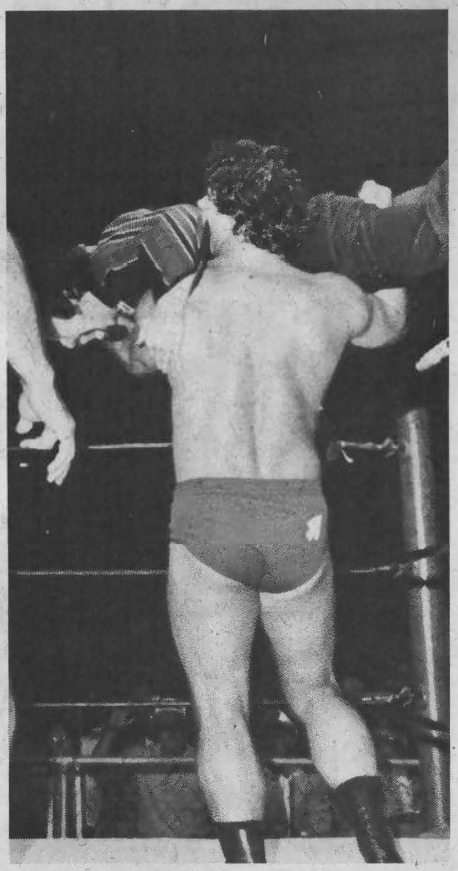
**Forced by fate into a match they didn't want, the Brisco brothers now feel compelled to make up for that brawl. In doing so, they could change the face of wrestling as we know it!**





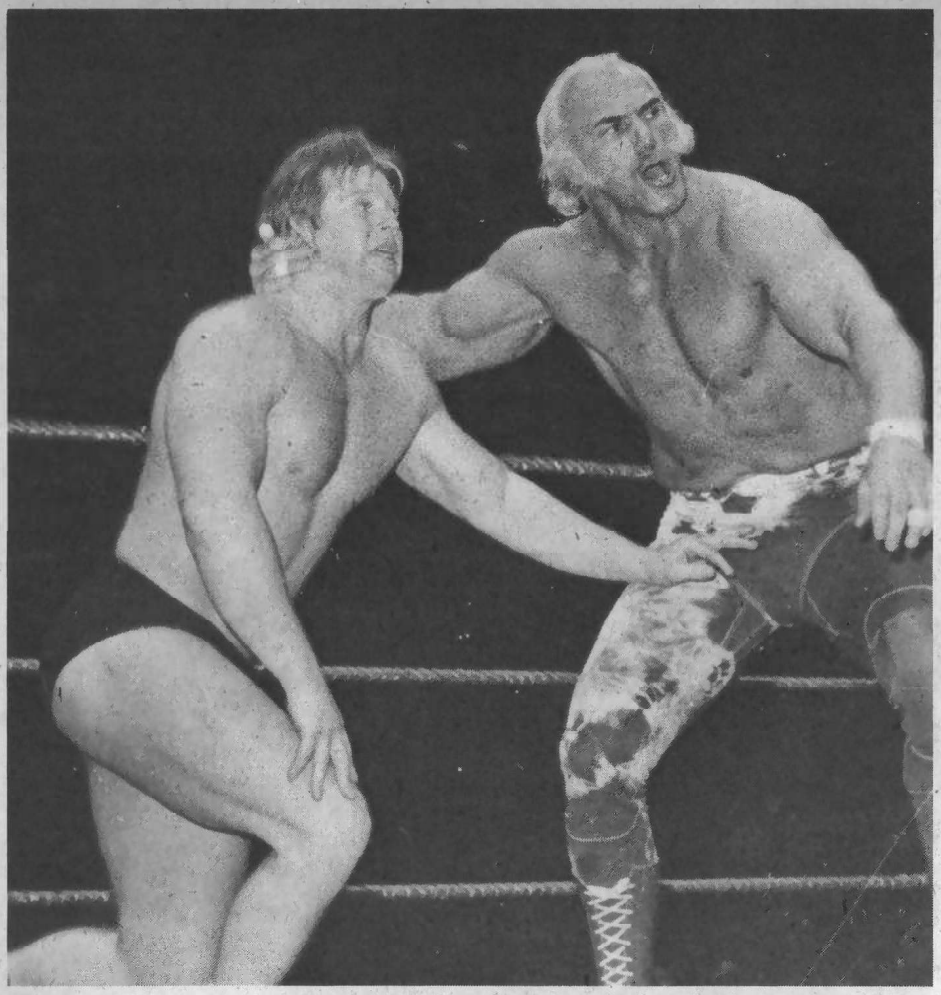
Their faces solemn, Jack and Jerry Brisco acknowledge the polite applause of the huge crowd (left) before their bout against Mr. Sato and Mr. Saito gets underway. Jerry rocks Saito with a sensational maneuver (above). The fans were glad to see that Jack and Jerry once again wish to be in their good graces.





Jerry uses a reverse chinlock on Saito (above). When the Japanese team's manager, Mr. Hatori, interferes (right), Jerry brings him into the heat of the battle.

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



Superstar Graham is about to smash Bob Backlund's head into the ringpost. Bob, current WWWF champion, has yet to win a decisive victory over the ex-champion.

# SUPERSTAR GRAHAM'S BOAST: "I HAVE MY CHOICE OF TITLES!"

**After losing the WWWF championship, most people thought Superstar Billy Graham would fall apart. Instead, he is cockier than ever, promising to once again be champion. Before you say he won't, read this shocking article**

IF IT WEREN'T for the fact that his boasts contained lethal dangerous components, the swaggering posture of Superstar Billy Graham could be reduced to that of a pompous buffoon.

Unfortunately for the wrestling community, the unveiled threats of Graham and his self-centered assertions of wrestling supremacy must be listened to, however much one is forced to cringe and choke back the repulsed nausea this man invariably elicits from his audience.

"I could have whipped Nick Bockwinkle, I could have whipped Harley Race, I did whip Bob Backlund," Graham said from his princely position at the edge of a motel swimming pool.

"I didn't take the belt from Race and Bockwinkle because I couldn't be bothered with them. I had the WWWF belt and I still have it, despite the burglarizing ways of that mealy-mouthed Minnesota moron.

"And I could have whipped Verne Gagne, but I felt sorry for

the old coot. He's kind of sad and pathetic, trying to live on his past glories and re-living his worthless life through his equally worthless sons. I didn't want to hurt him and get charged with murder. Though it might have been labeled mercy killing. Old man got to die eventually."

Several persons walked away, disgusted expressions on their faces. A few more people edged away, several more edged closer, lured by disbelieving curiosity.

"Superstar Graham, who is the best, the greatest, the mightiest, is too good to be forced to take a belt. I want a choice, as befitting my regal position as the best wrestler in the world.

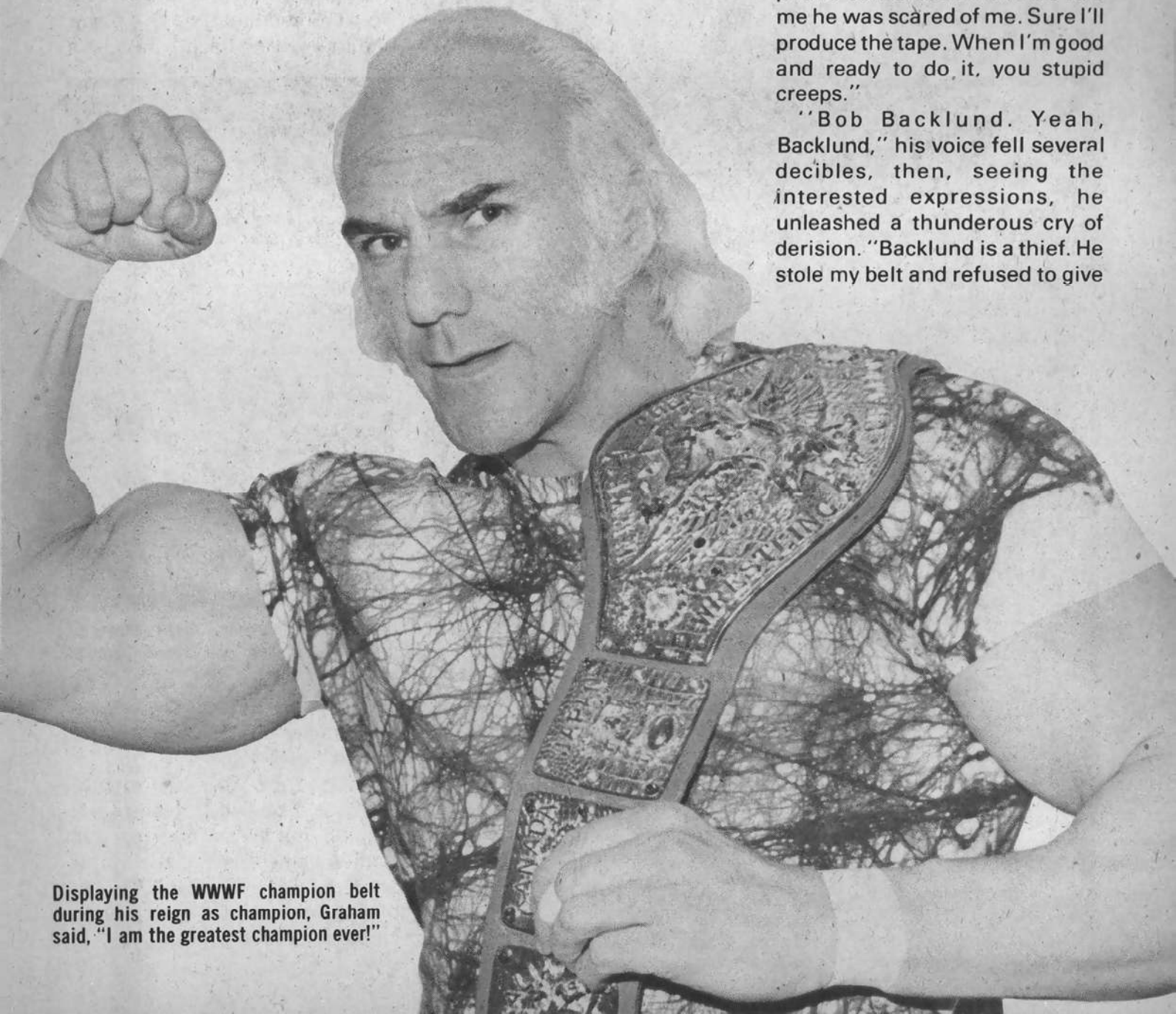
"Now that I am the WWWF champ-in-exile, waiting for the current chump to grant me another shot so I can twist his ugly face and shove it into his ear, I plan on attacking each and every one of the other belt-holders.

"Harley Race?" Without any encouragement, Graham launched into an analysis of the present federation champions. "Race is, first of all, the dumbest wrestler I've ever seen. He has one move and half a brain. He couldn't improvise if his life depended on it, which it will when we meet. He's a coward who will run at the fight sight of blood. Usually his own, unless he tried some cheap stunt on his innocent opponent."

Innocent opponent? Is this the real Billy Graham or some blond circus reject?

"Nick Bockwinkle," Graham screamed, driving away several more spectators. "Nicky, Nicky, sat on a tree. Nicky, Nicky, got hit by a knee. All the King's horses and all the Queen's hens, couldn't put little ol' Nicky back together again. Who'd want to? He's scared of me. I taped a phone conversation and he told me he was scared of me. Sure I'll produce the tape. When I'm good and ready to do it, you stupid creeps."

"Bob Backlund. Yeah, Backlund," his voice fell several decibles, then, seeing the interested expressions, he unleashed a thunderous cry of derision. "Backlund is a thief. He stole my belt and refused to give



**Displaying the WWWF champion belt during his reign as champion, Graham said, "I am the greatest champion ever!"**

it back. Then in our rematch he bled so bad they stopped the match and again refused to give me back my belt. I'll get him next time!"

Exhausted by his vehement tirade, Graham fell upon a beach chair, then jumped up and began screaming once more to the thinning audience.

"I'm a versatile man. Not many dudes can be able to wrestle all the different champions of the world like I am. I have to adapt my versatile repertoire of evil for each guy, then trick them into thinking I'm wrestling their match when I turn around and beat them bloody.

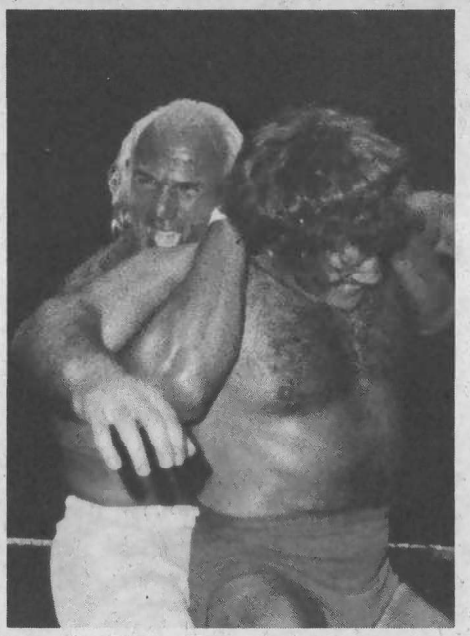
"Before I wasn't interested enough to challenge each and every one of them. But I'm angry about losing to Backlund and I'm madder than anything to show those fools out there, yeah, you stupid fans and writers, who is the greatest.

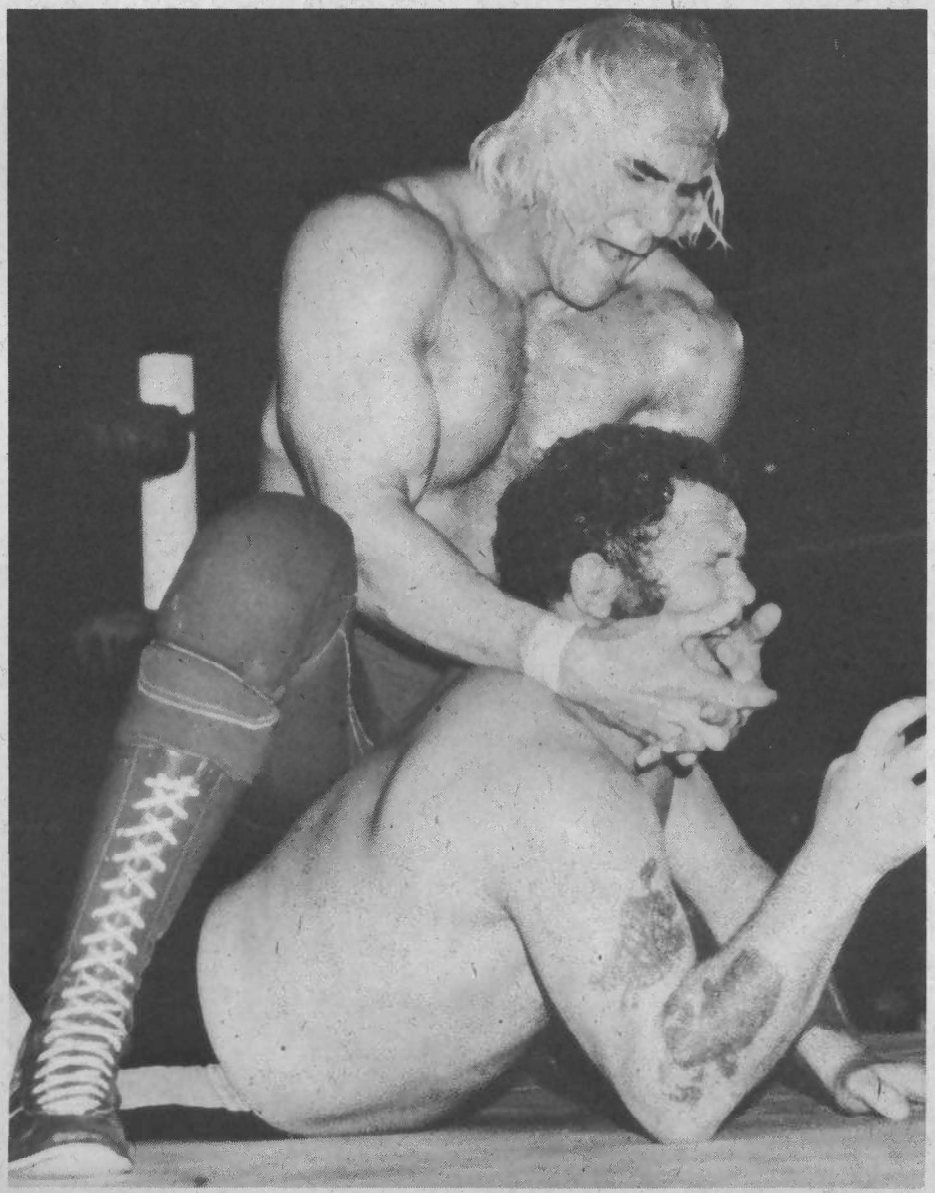
"Just regaining the WWWF belt may be enough for some, like that pizza-maker Sammartino, but not for Superstar. I want to maim Bob Backlund and rearrange his face so even his Eskimo parents up in Minnesota won't recognize him.

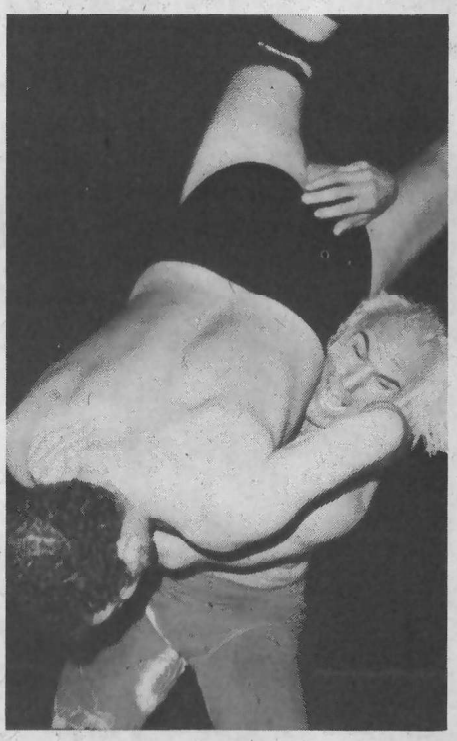
"Then I'm going to systematically destroy Bockwinkle and take his belt, destroy Race and take his belt, then issue a challenge to every wrestler in the world to try and take a belt. No, I won't do that. I'll win a belt and then give it back. The belt is for mediocrities. I'm after bigger things."

With that final flourish, Graham excused himself and jumped into the swimming pool. Some people insisted the water changed from crystal clear to black. Too bad there were no cameras present. □

Graham captures Bruno Sammartino in a full nelson. Graham unseated Bruno to win the WWWF title.







In his match against NWA champion Harley Race (left and above) Graham proves that he is indeed championship caliber.

**Could any wrestling ring contain the savagery of Ox Baker and Sheik? Fans filled the arena to find out the answer. The horror they witnessed will forever be branded on their minds**

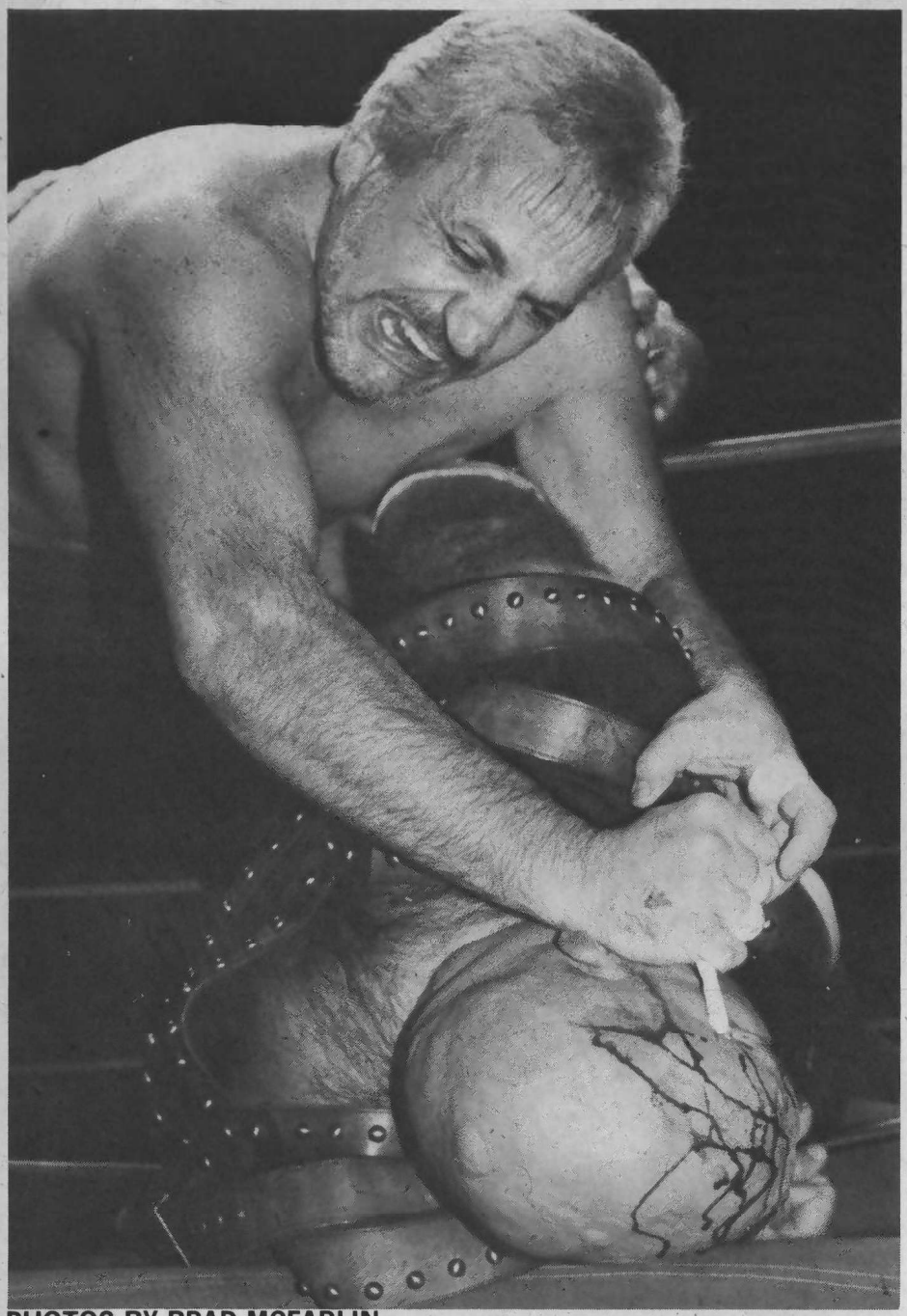
NORMALLY, THE SPECTACLE of two men trying to maim each other would evoke roars of disapproval from the wrestling community. Except to a few sick minds, a ring submerged in blood and bombarded with bestial screams is an appalling sight.

Yet the restraints of human civility are unsheathed when two men, two vicious, inhuman beasts tear each other apart. Their sinful behavior against decent foes, their callous disregard of the fans, their criminal contempt for the entire structure of wrestling, puts them out of the class of sympathetic consideration and into a well-defined area of hate.

In short, no one cares if Sheik and Ox Baker never leave the ring. No one cares if funeral services must be held for them.

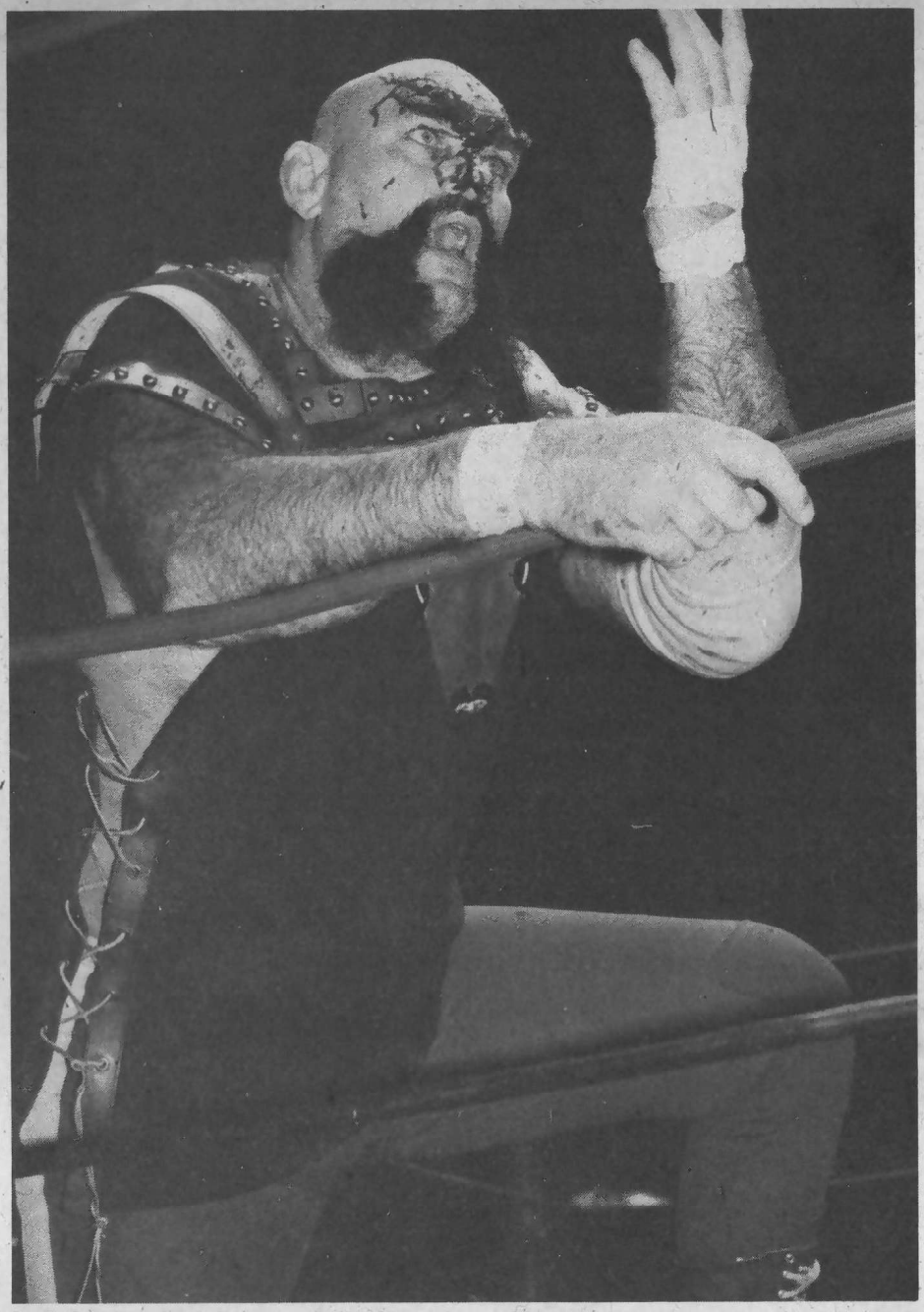
No one cares if they kill each other.

"And I don't care who cares about anything," snarled Ox Baker. "Bunch of idiots running this sport anyway. No one has ever cared about me and I don't care about them. That's why I like to kill people. Because



PHOTOS BY BRAD MCFARLIN

# "LET 'EM BOTH KILL EACH OTHER!"

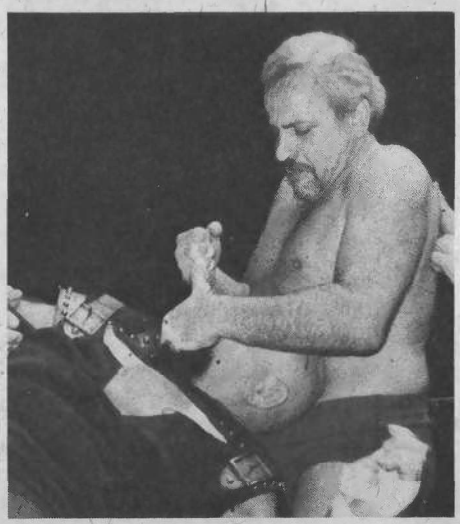


Ox Baker is a bloody mess (above) courtesy of The Sheik and his arsenal of foreign objects. Early in the match, Sheik traps Baker in the ropes (below) and begins tearing the vicious Baker's face to shreds. This was one of the most brutal matches ever seen. Fans hoped Sheik and Ox would destroy each other.

people ain't worth dog sweat to me."

"Blood is my favorite liquid," growled Sheik through his translator, Abdullah Farouk. "I love to lick the blood from the canvas and watch my opponents moan in pain. I won't be happy until I have killed at least a dozen men. Then I can retire a happy man, content to live out the rest of my wonderful days looking at obituaries."

Certainly neither man inspires love from anyone.



Anyone! But there is something disturbing about the total lack of concern for these two men, something which offends the sensibilities of the wrestling community, though no one expresses any desire for a change in attitude, only the bitter continuation of this philosophy.

"They're animals," declared one wrestling fan.

"They've crippled a lot of guys. Now let them get a taste of their own medicine," said another.

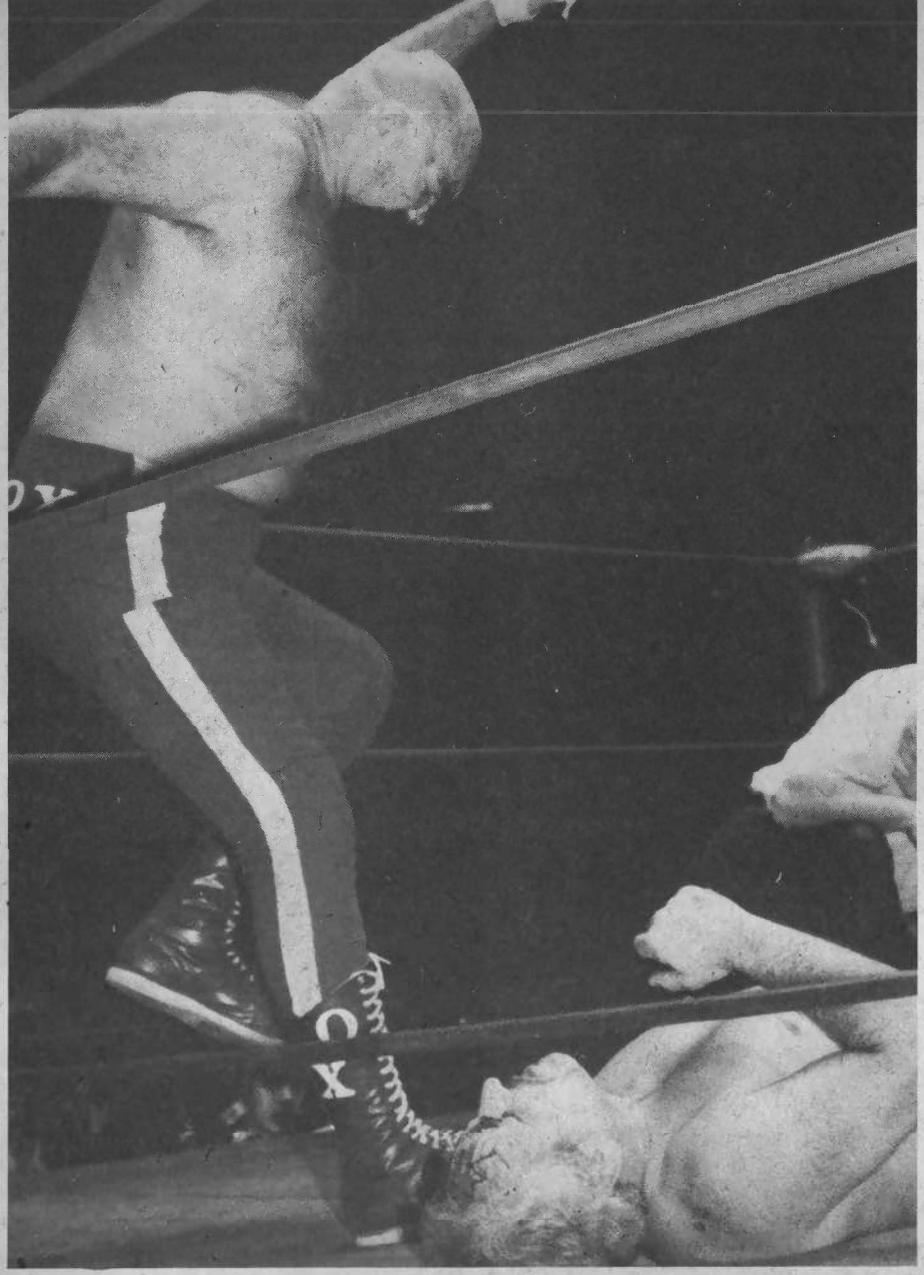
No one can fault fans or promoters or writers or other wrestlers for feeling this way. What is fascinating is the number of wrestlers who attended the Sheik-Ox Baker match. They sat quietly, not boisterously encouraging either man, just watching. With smiles.

"Why should I care who wins?" said one unnamed grappler. "I hate to wish injury on someone, but these guys have it coming. It would have been nice to get them banned, but no one would do it. So when they destroy each other it's poetic justice, that's all."

The match itself was crimson illustration of tribal warfare. Both men offered threatening sadistic comments as they entered the ring. Baker snarled and questioned Sheik's family background. Patiently waiting for translation, Sheik's ugly features were transfigured into a snarling mass of hate. He screamed an Arab obscenity and charged toward Ox.

Baker stepped neatly aside and laughed as Sheik rammed his head into the turnbuckle. Baker sneakily leaped on Sheik's back and put a finger in each ear and tried to rip Sheik's large ears off.

Still chuckling, Ox was unprepared for the Sheik's backward elbow thrust. The



charged.

Baker screamed a cowardly cry and jumped out of the ring. Sheik hurdled with surprising agility over the top rope and pursued his fleeing enemy.

They battled outside the ring. Baker stomped and kicked at Sheik, the foot landing into the Arab's stomach. He toppled back and Baker picked up another chair, hurling it at him.

Sheik avoided that and pounded his head into Baker's chest. The two men fell down together in a heap near the timekeeper's table. Baker extricated himself from the hold and ran down the aisle toward the dressing room, followed by Sheik and his animalistic snarls.

Needless to say, the result was a double disqualification. That outcome failed to adequately describe the reaction of the fans to this debacle. A resonant voice emitting from somewhere deep in the recesses of the arena said it all.

"Let 'em kill each other." □

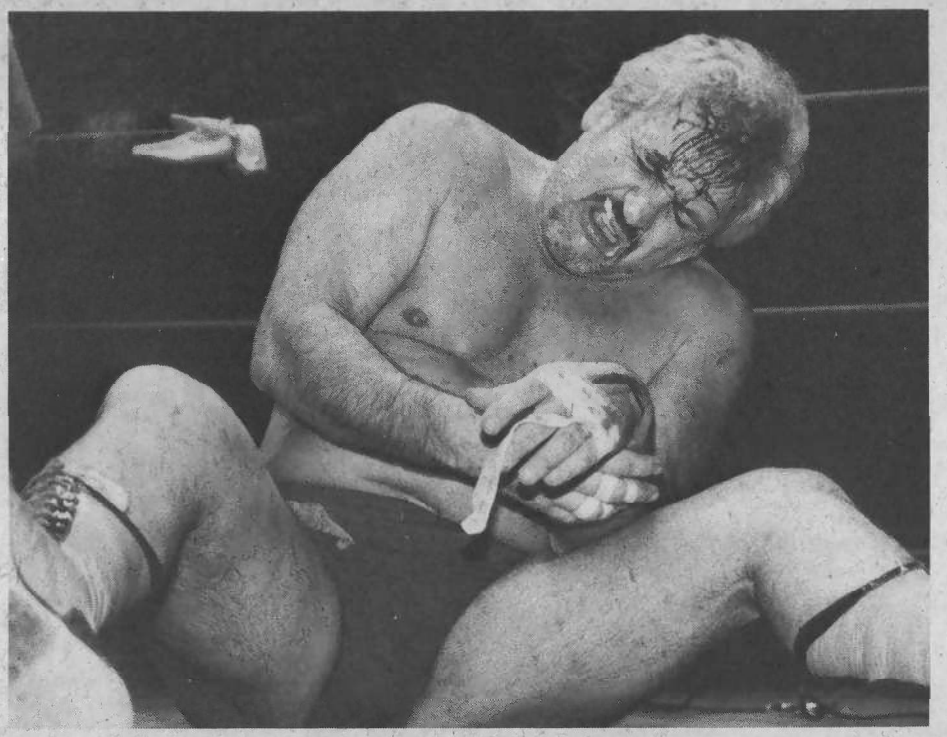
**It's Baker's turn (above and below) as Ox stomps him and injures Sheik's hand. The blood flowed freely throughout the match as both battled furiously.**

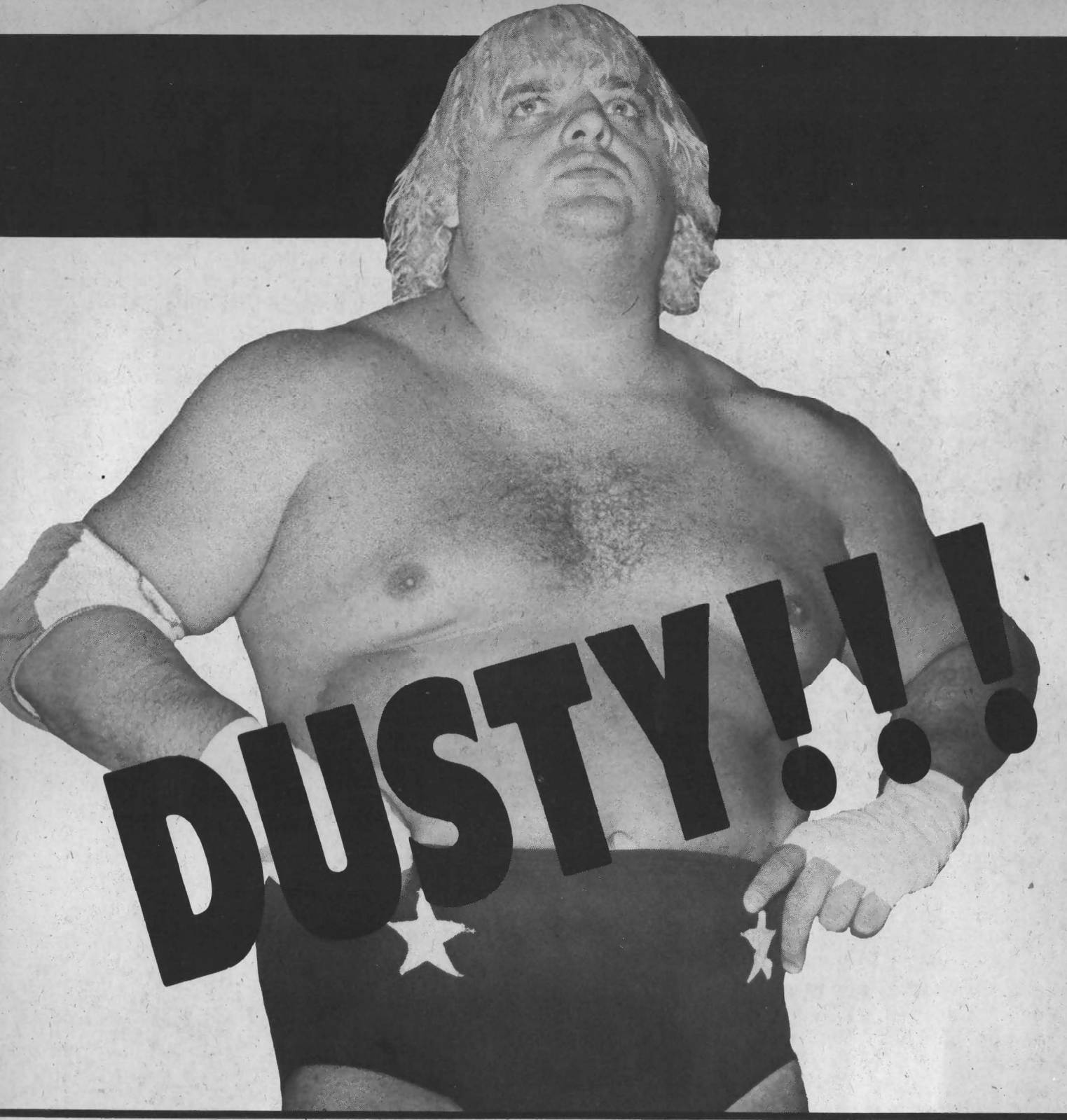
sinister mustache of Baker was carried along with the rest of his body onto the mat. Sheik leaped atop him and began bludgeoning the yelping face with savage punches. Two blows, three blows.

Then blood.

A delirious bellow of rage blanketed the two men. Baker twisted his frame and flipped Sheik on his back. As Ox went to tear Sheik's nose off, Sheik smashed his foot into Baker's groin, propelling him into the ringpost.

Ox reached out of the ring for a chair. He tossed it at the rampaging Arab, the wood splintering across Sheik's forehead. Amazingly, Sheik still






# A Tribute To A Star

**Now is the time to praise a great athlete and a wonderful human being. In so many ways, he represents the best in wrestling. We are proud to salute the magnificent Dusty Rhodes!**

A GOLD TABLECLOTH covered the large, half-moon dais which filled most of the sumptuous restaurant in Miami. If a picture had been taken of them sitting and laughing, eating, drinking, it could be used as a composite shot for the Wrestling Hall of Fame.

They had gathered from all across the country not to bury Dusty but to praise him, to issue fitting accolades which do justice to the monumental achievements of his career in the ring. And outside.

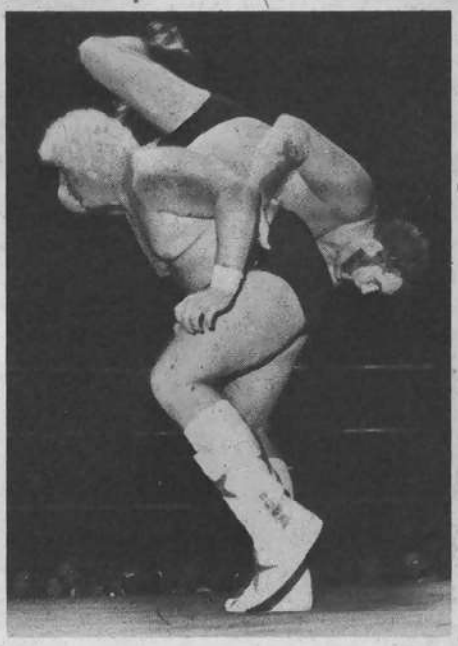
The caterer, a long-time Dusty fan, had furnished all the lobster, steak, and wine. Another group of Dusty lovers, a down-home country music group, the Red River Moon Dogs, provided free entertainment.

And the friends of Dusty Rhodes provided their loving respect.

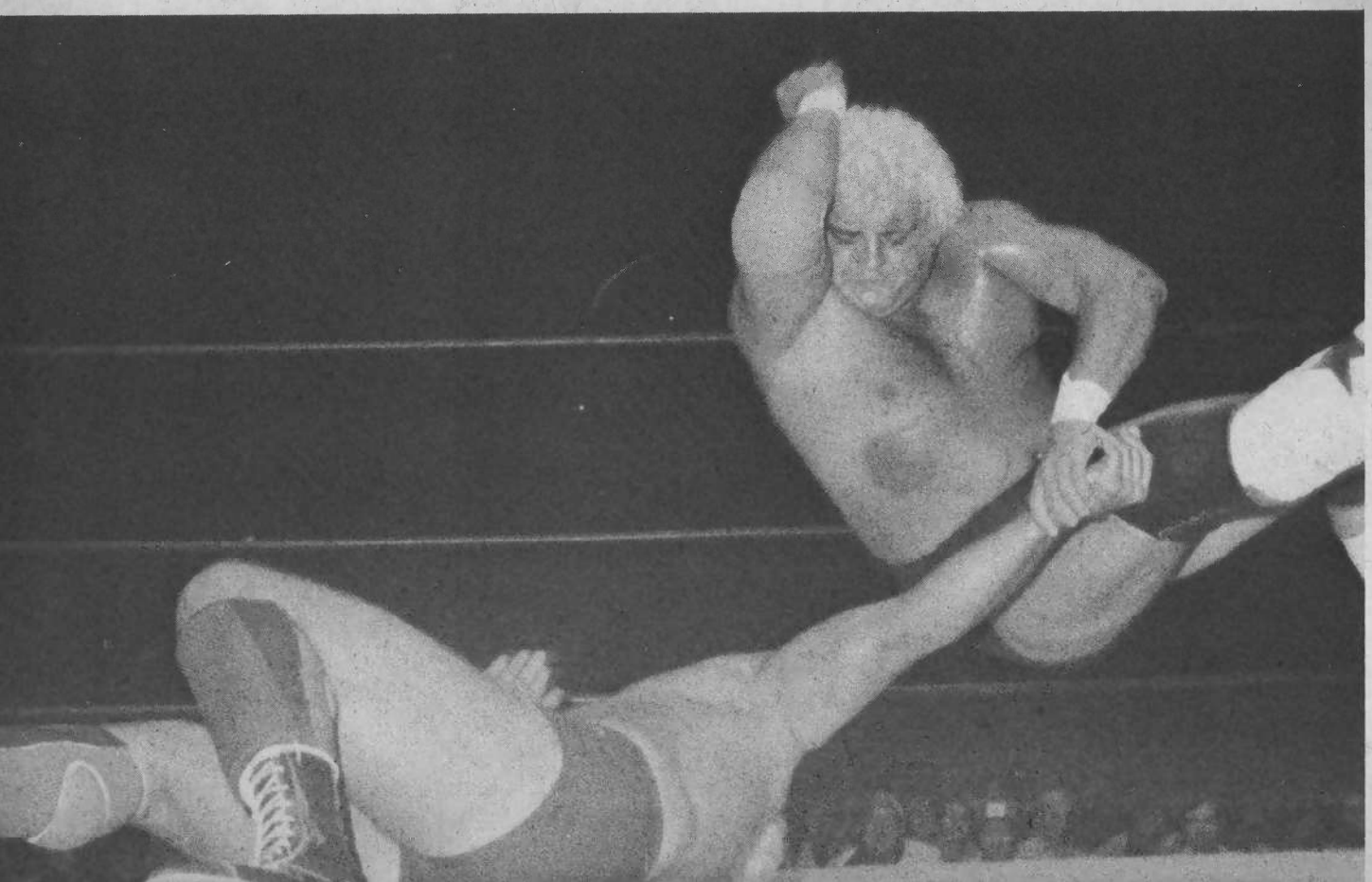
"It is rare that you meet someone like Dusty Rhodes," said Paul Jones. "I remember the first time I met him. It was in this small cafe in Jacksonville, about one in the morning, no one in the place but me. And Dusty.

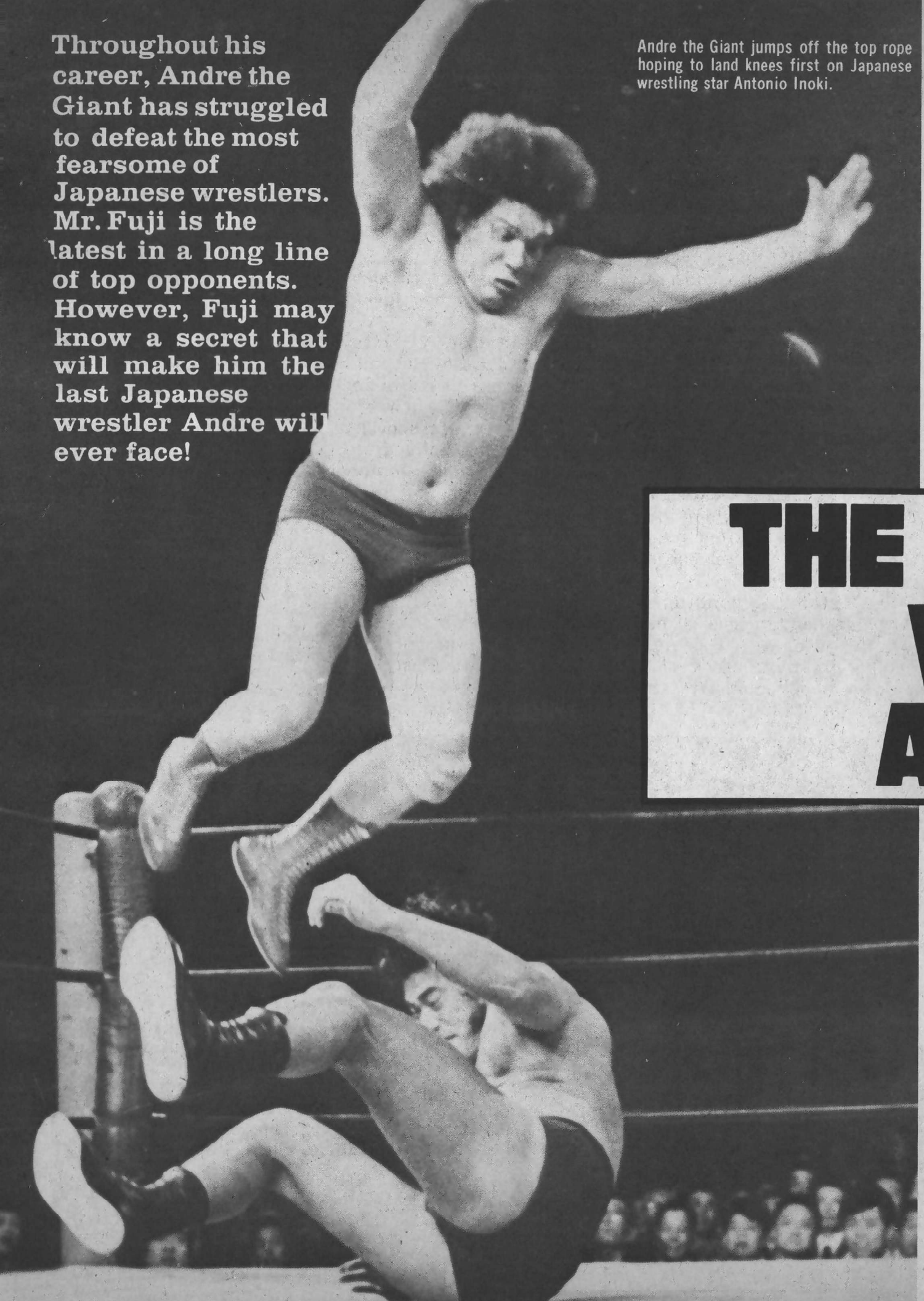
"We were both starting out but didn't know each other except by reputation. I had been having my problems dealing with rulebreakers and I was pretty down about it. If you remember," Paul smilingly told the quiet audience, "Dusty was a pretty fair rulebreaker when

*(Continued on page 62)*



Dusty's matches against NWA champion Harley Race are classics. He backdrops Race (above). Against rulebreakers, Dusty is at his best. He uses a flying elbowsmash (below) to flatten Ric Flair.





Throughout his career, Andre the Giant has struggled to defeat the most fearsome of Japanese wrestlers. Mr. Fuji is the latest in a long line of top opponents. However, Fuji may know a secret that will make him the last Japanese wrestler Andre will ever face!

Andre the Giant jumps off the top rope hoping to land knees first on Japanese wrestling star Antonio Inoki.

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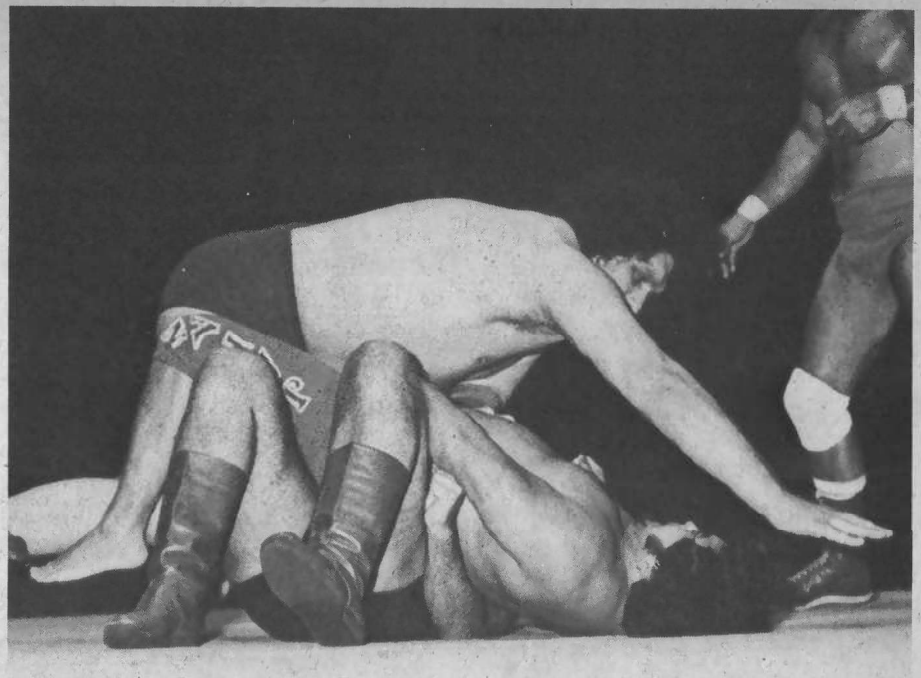


It's a one man gangup as Andre tries to pin Mr. Saito and Mr. Sato during a match in which Andre went berserk.

# ORIENTAL TERROR WHICH DRIVES ANDRE BERSERK

WAVES OF FRENZIED, vicious hordes cross the Pacific in search of him. Or lie in coiled ambush in the Japanese arenas, patiently waiting for him. Once they meet, the result is always the same.

Terror. Bloodshed. Madness.

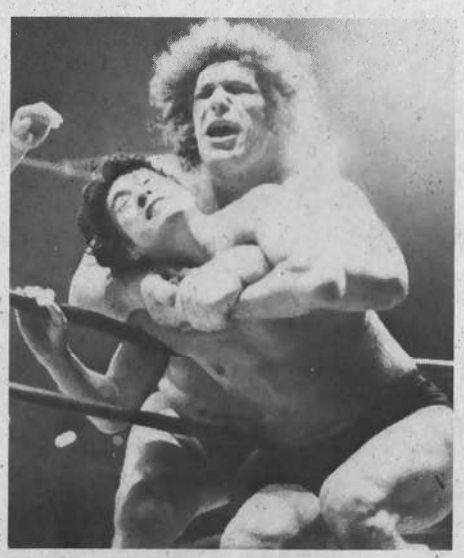
They are the "Oriental Connection," hordes of bloodthirsty wrestlers with one purpose in mind.

Destroy Andre the Giant. Destroy Andre the Giant.

The names read like a compendium of Japanese superstars. Professor Tanaka. Mr. Fuji. Antonio Inoki. Sakaguchi. Kobayashi. Mr. Sato. Mr. Saito. Mr. Hatori. Baba the Giant.

Why do they pursue Andre so ruthlessly? And what do they do to him that engenders such insanity, such uncontrollable rage?

"They are cheap men who must use the worst possible tactics on me." Andre said in assessing the situation. "They go beyond the normal cruelty of rulebreakers. They have created their own world of savagery. And they know I am the only one who can stop them."



Andre traps Inoki on the ropes. It is a standoff as both try to weaken the other and gain an advantage.

There is no conspiracy evident in this horrid situation. From our Japanese sources, we have learned, exclusively, that attempts to form a united front against Andre failed dismally.

"I found records of phone calls from a number of the wrestlers involved," read the special delivery letter from our contact in Tokyo. "Despite these repeated calls, no one had the courage to come out and become the leader of this group. They decided, in the only concerted action they had, to protect their interests

separately."

Interests. A word which crops up every time an attempt is made to uncover the reason for this war-like rivalry. Interests. What interests does Andre the Giant threaten?

The reason is terrifyingly simple, too simple, too frightening. It transcends the parameters of wrestling and extends to the highest international levels.

Andre is French. Obviously, the Japanese are Oriental. At stake is the reputation of being the premier non-American wrestler in the world.

"I am proud of being French, but I do not wear it on my sleeve," Andre said. "I respect all nationalities and do not think of myself as wrestling for the Fifth Republic when I enter the squared circle."

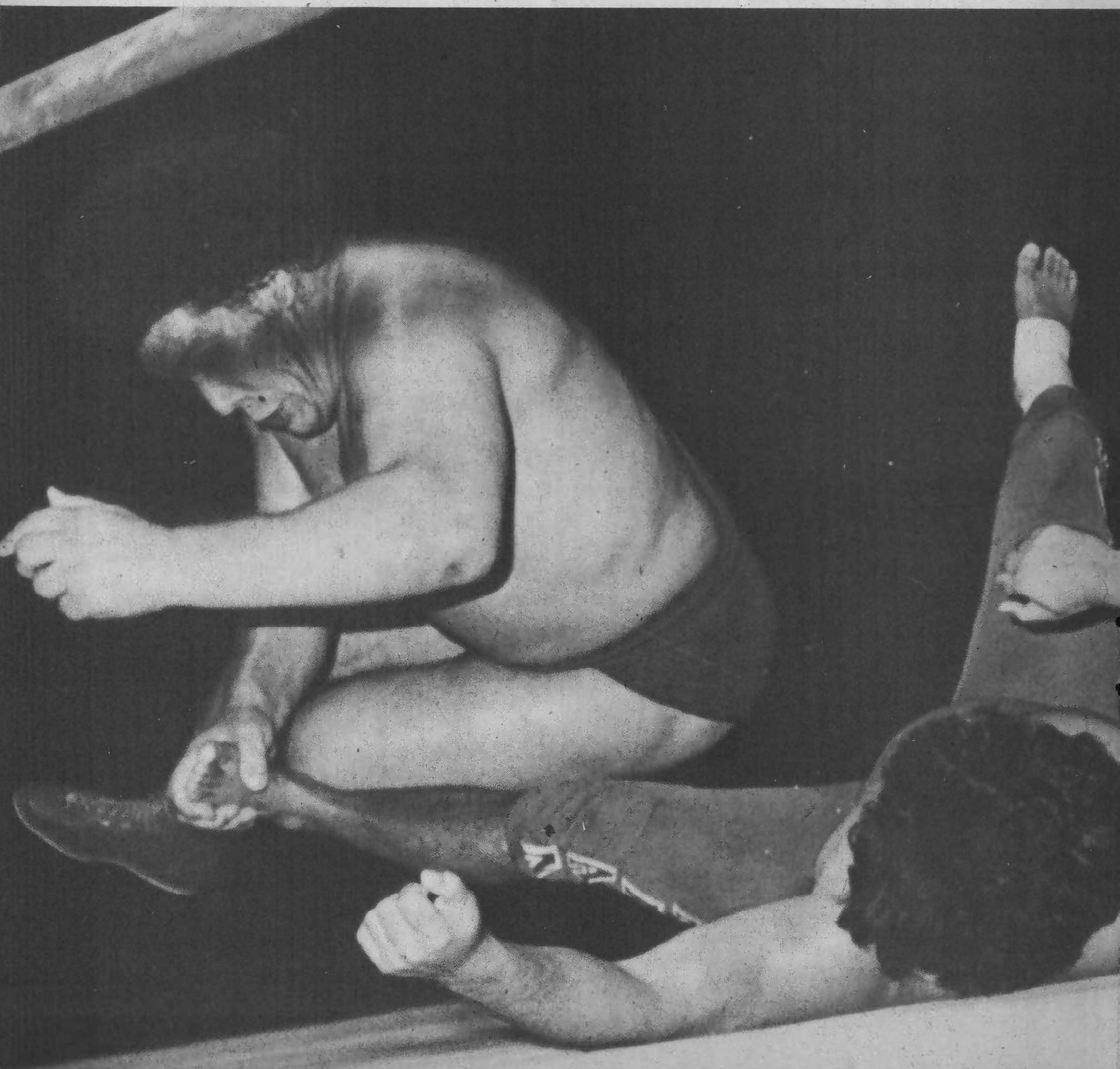
However, the fanatic patriotism exemplified by the Japanese counters these typically gentle remarks. They are bitterly envious of Andre. More so, they resent the fact that he is unequaled among foreigners in America. They are determined to supplant him.

No matter what it takes.

"That Andre is a big ugly fool," snorted Professor Tanaka. "He says he is the best wrestler in world. No way!"

There are other successful foreign wrestlers, yet none engenders the hostility and jealousy which Andre does. And none have been subjected to the horrific maneuvers like this gentle man of France.

In one recent match against Mr. Sato, Andre had to contend



with both Mr. Sato, Mr. Saito, their manager, Mr. Hatori, and a lead object brought into the ring by one of the evil Japanese. Still, Andre somehow managed to overcome this villainy. Somehow. But how can he continue to confront this overwhelming array?

"We'll get him, that flimsy French frog," growled Mr. Fuji. "Once we're rid of him we'll take over the American wrestling scene the same way we took over the television and radio business. We'll prove that no slimy Frenchman with wine for blood can beat us."

What makes this even more disturbing is Andre's wild emotional response. No longer can he contain his rage when facing these men. No longer can he typify the gentility which has made him one of the sport's most beloved figures. No longer can he keep his gargantuan strength restrained.

Another disconcerting variable is the power behind the Japanese invasion. It has been speculated that a wealthy Tokyo businessman whose factories were destroyed by French forces in the Indo-chinese battles of World War II is supporting the various wrestlers and instigating them, careful to keep his identity hidden and a conspiracy unproven.

The spectre of international intrigue created by this grappling war is frightening. The Japanese wrestlers vehemently deny these charges and one is helpless against the refutations and unproven rumors. Nevertheless, the treachery congeals into reality by the numerous battles Andre has had to undergo.

A bloody war against Tanaka and Fuji. An unbelievable genocidal fracas with Kobayashi. Open threats from Hatori.

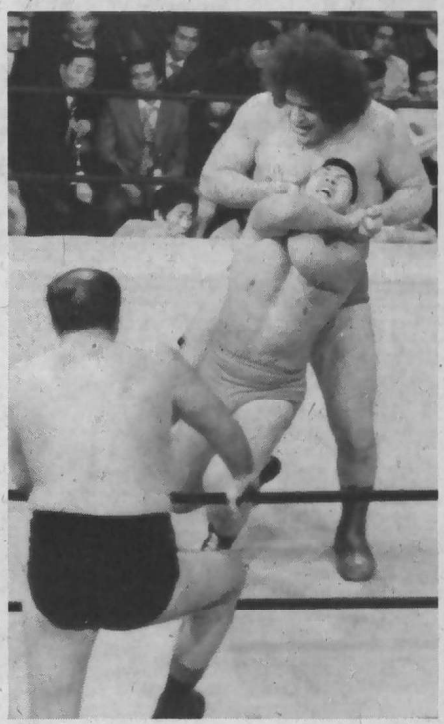
What concerns many is not that Andre will lose. That is unthinkable. It is the bad effect this is having on his normally placid personality.

"I've never seen Andre so upset as he has been after those matches with the Japanese," said a close friend of the Giant's. "It really hurts him for people to be that mean to him and for them to knock his country. Though he rarely expresses it, he's very proud of his homeland and doesn't understand why there can't be room for all nationalities to work together. He's a great admirer of the United Nations."

Despite the enormous pressures, the incessant challenges, vicious tactics employed by his enemies, Andre will not be stopped.

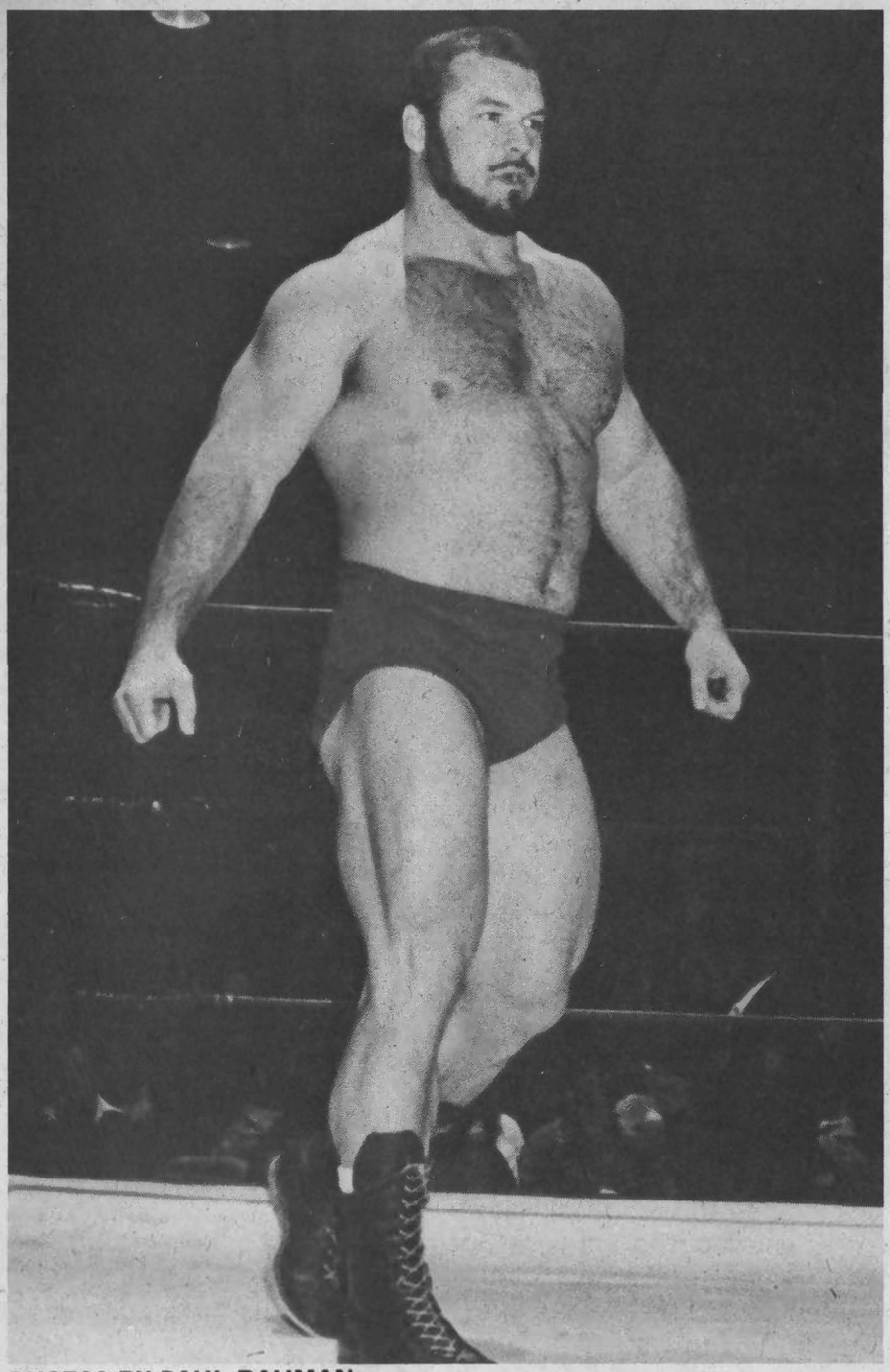
"The more they hassle me, the more determined I get," Andre said. □

The Giant's huge hulk comes crashing down on Mr. Saito in one of the most vicious moves used by the 7'5" Andre.



"Small" Hoshino is Andre's victim (above) while Sakaguchi is tied up (below) by Andre. During his matches against Japanese opponents, Andre is not controllable.

# IVAN PUTSKI —



PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN

THERE MUST BE a specified period of time for a man to have the opportunity to show that he has sincerely reformed his prior distasteful behavior. Most people, not all, are willing to give a person a tolerant eye. Sure, there will always be skepticism, always be doubt, always a vague expectation of a reversion to criminal conduct. But tolerance should always be the controlling element.

It is only when someone absolutely refuses to accept the conversion to decency that a united front against that man should rightfully develop. Ivan Putski, for reasons known only to himself, though supported by historical precedent, refuses to acknowledge that Larry Hennig has changed his old bad guy ways and is now a genuine fan favorite.

Perhaps some of the sting would be removed from the current criticism leveled against Putski had he made an attempt to be kind to Hennig. He made no such attempt. He snarled and huffed and pounded Hennig's astonished frame the moment Larry entered the ring.

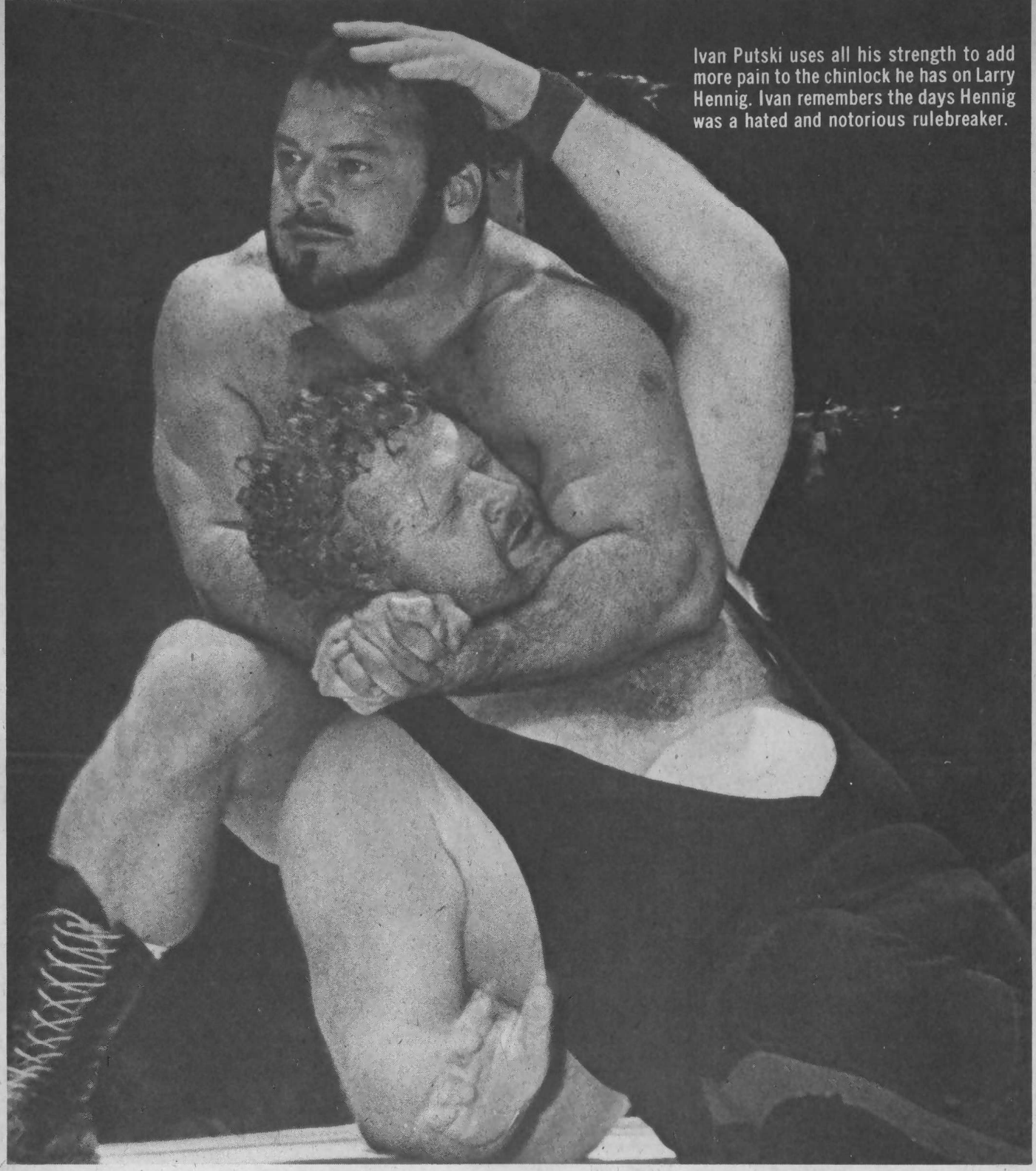
For shame, Ivan Putski. How could you do such a crass thing.

"I was feeling surprised Ivan treated me the way he did," Larry sad puzzledly. "I've been using scientific techniques for a long time now. I thought he knew. But why did he act that way?"

A brief background note would seem to be required. When Putski and Hennig both wrestled in the AWA, Hennig was a master

# HANG YOUR HE

**Is Ivan Putski a fallen hero, traitor to his fans and the ideals he so bravely defended? This question may lead to the saddest, most heartbreaking answer in wrestling history**



Ivan Putski uses all his strength to add more pain to the chinlock he has on Larry Hennig. Ivan remembers the days Hennig was a hated and notorious rulebreaker.

# AD IN SHAME!

rulebreaker and Putski, of course, was a practioner of the scientific school of grappling. They tangled on more than one evening, the match often inundated with deceit and honesty, jeers and cheers.

Then Hennig changed his style.

"I wasn't happy with myself. It's that simple," he explained.

Putski left the AWA and concentrated on WWWF and Florida wrestling. A while ago Hennig decided that he would go down to Florida for one match to

*(Continued on page 64)*

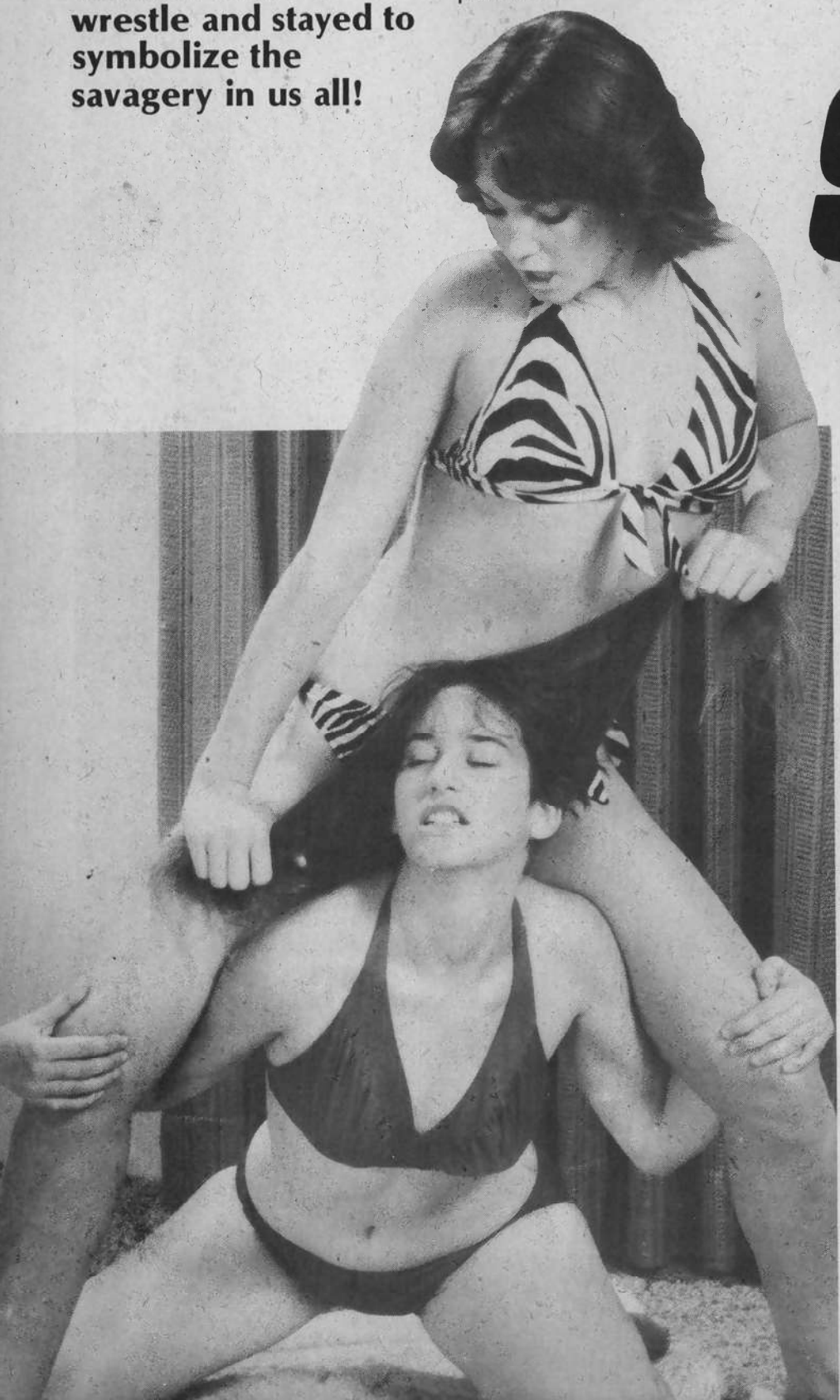
**There comes a time when a battle becomes more than a confrontation, the very essences of life seem to be at war. Two beautiful women came to wrestle and stayed to symbolize the savagery in us all!**

# SAV IN

THE HEADMISTRESS SUMMONED the frightened youngster into her office. The little girl saw her mother, eyes red from weeping, and started screaming hysterically, not knowing why. When they calmed her down, she started screaming again. Her father had been murdered by his business partner.

The widow and daughter were left poverty-stricken. Every cent they had was poured into the business, including all monies raised from insurance policies. The father's partner embezzeled it all, then murdered the victim when he threatened to tell the police. The murderer was caught three days later. There wasn't a penny left; he'd spent it all over the last five months.

Beth was taken out of private school right after the funeral. Eight years old, she watched the mortgaged house sold for a song, all her family's valuables auctioned, and her parents' friends desert her mother one by one. They moved to a small apartment in Toledo to be near her mother's family, two elderly grandparents who could barely support themselves.



**Beth groans in anguish as Trudy pulls mercilessly upon the victim's hair. Beth still has Trudy about the ankle, waiting to throw her onto the ground in revenge.**

By 12, Beth had seen both her grandparents die and her mother grow too quickly old. Deep in the youngster's psyche grew a hatred for the wealthy who had turned their backs on her. Every night, as she lay on the couch, she swore revenge.

At 18, Beth fled Toledo. Her mother was relieved that the burden of a daughter was gone. The young girl went to New York, becoming a secretary for

# AGE GIRLS VIOLENT COMBAT

**Beth's forearm moves menacingly toward Trudy's throat, helpless terror forming a wail of horror about Trudy's full, rich lips and pale yet lovely face.**

one of her father's former friends. She delighted in spurning his advances.

Still, Beth craved to be noticed by those who had turned their backs a decade ago. She wouldn't get that being a kept woman. Something spectacular had to happen. Then, she heard about apartment wrestling. Three of the men who had taken most of her father's estate by litigation were regular spectators. The same men who hadn't considered her back then would sit spellbound by her now. Then, afterwards, she would tell them all and spit in their faces.

It didn't take long for a woman of Beth's beauty to get an invitation to become an apartment wrestler. She lied about being an athlete, though it was no lie she'd been fighting all her life. Finally, she was given a chance.

Her opponent would be another woman wrestling for the first time. Trudy is the kind of simple person for whom the future is too difficult to contemplate. Young and beautiful, it's all a game to her. Somebody mentioned apartment wrestling and she wanted to play.

Like most people of her kind, Trudy's casualness leaves room for great cruelty. Caring about nothing and no one, it means nothing if someone is hurt. She'll play with a man's affections as if they were some glittering toy, then carelessly destroy them when bored. In a wrestling match, her opponent's body would also be a toy. Any pain suffered wouldn't concern her.

The day of the match, Beth exercised and rested, getting into the best possible physical

shape. Trudy went to the beauty parlor. When Trudy remembered she'd inadvertently made a date for the evening, she didn't bother to call the man up and apologize. When she didn't show at the theater, he'd get the message.

Beth arrived at the penthouse two hours before the match was scheduled to start. She went over the room like a general inspecting the field of battle. There'd be no surprises. She took off her shoes to get the feel of the rug on her feet. The plush alpaca would be treacherous footing. She had to remember that.

**Her taut fingers digging into Beth's windpipe (above), Trudy is ready to draw blood. (Right) Beth tears Trudy's knee apart in systematic coldness.**

The guests began to arrive, her father's three creditors among the first. They didn't recognize her name; it hadn't meant that much to them. It'd meant everything to Beth and her mother. When one of the men had to decline champagne because of an ulcer, Beth couldn't have been happier. She hoped it gave him pain late at night.

Beth wondered if her father would have been in the audience tonight if there had been no assassin. Any of those present could have suffered her father's fate; any one of their daughters might be here tonight. But it was Beth's father lying dead these many years, and it was Beth preparing for battle tonight. What would her father have said if he could see her now? Beth never really knew her father, so she told herself he would approve. For some reason, Beth wondered what her mother was doing this evening, not knowing of her daughter's adventure.

Trudy sauntered in about 10 minutes after the match was scheduled to begin. The entrepreneur in charge of the

*(Continued on page 44)*

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# SAVAGE GIRLS

*(Continued from Page 43)*

evening's entertainment made a mental note never to use this inconsiderate young lady again. The battle that followed made him reconsider that vow.

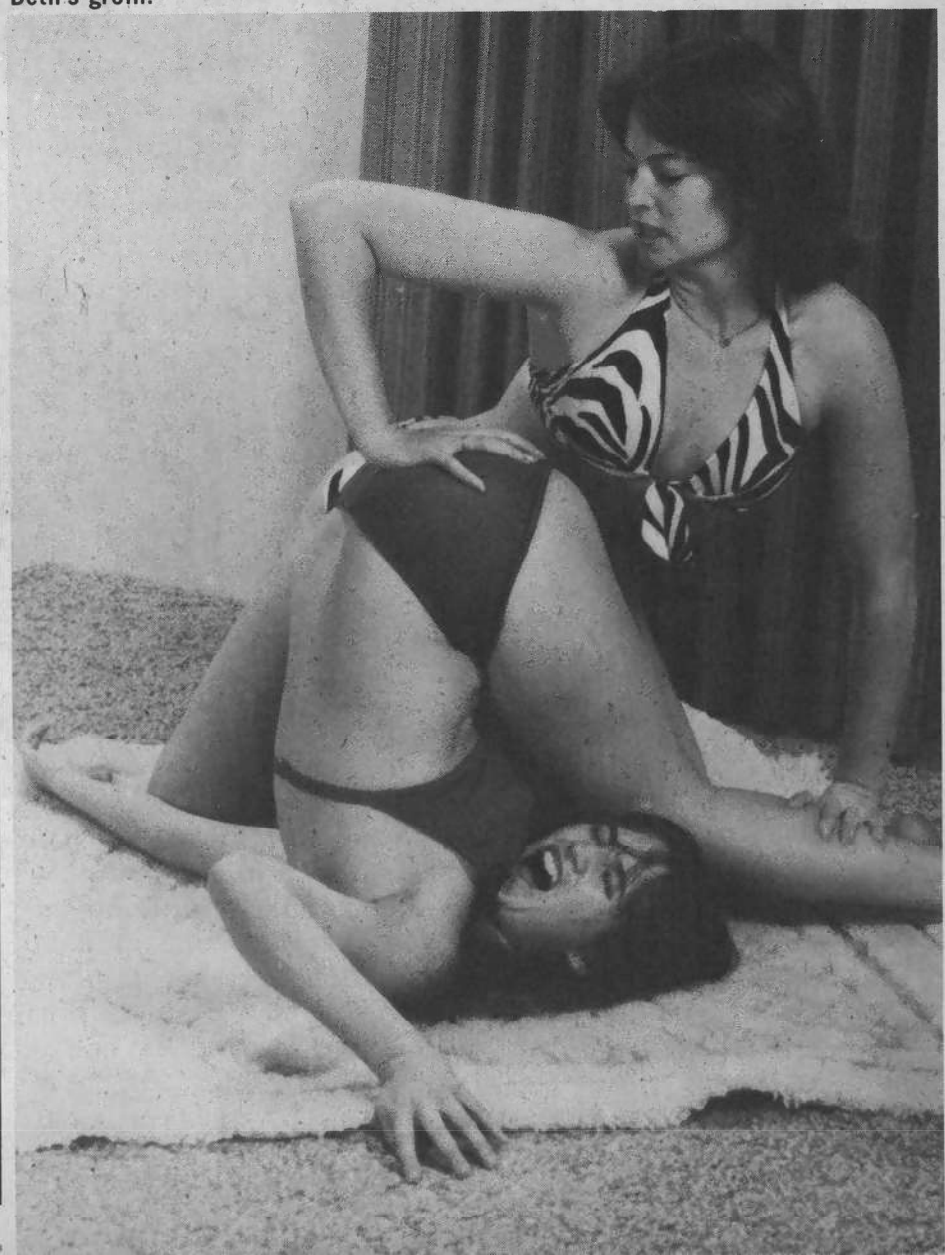
Eventually, both women were ready. Beth's nerves were raw with anticipation. Every so often, her body convulsively shook. This was the moment she'd been waiting for since the day of her exile to Toledo.

Trudy was casually excited, like a child given free reign in a candy store. She strutted into the living room, exulting in the attention her beautiful body commanded. Her fashionably styled short hair gave her a pert appearance, yet her eyes proclaimed a cold worldliness. The more sophisticated men imagined a dubious encounter with this mean woman.

For the first time, the two women saw each other. Trudy sneered at her opponent, seemingly saying she was beneath contempt. Beth's features revealed nothing. The time to prove herself had come.

It is only fitting that a man who

**Beth finds herself helpless before Trudy's ferocious maneuvers. Her neck is close to breaking apart at the spinal cord and her arms are thrust out so that they threaten to break off. All that remains for Trudy to finalize her victory is one last choking grasp of Beth's groin.**



bled her father's estate dry would signal the match to begin. Only Beth appreciated the irony of it.

Once the signal was given, Beth had no time to consider the past. The present occupied her every attention. Trudy, with savagery borne of contempt, wrapped her arms around Beth's head, squeezing unmercifully. Beth's long hair draped her face, thankfully hiding her expression of agony. The match was underway.

Beth's fist slammed hard into Trudy's side. Stunned, the brunette loosened her hold, allowing Beth to slip free. Now

**Trudy's upward thrust just misses Beth's vulnerable groin. The savage hand rips at Beth's stomach, drawing blood and anguish from the pretty brunette.**

the determined beauty began her attack.

Beth's hands slipped down Trudy's body until they encircled her victim's willowy thighs. With a mighty tug, she lifted Trudy high in the air and sent her smashing down to the floor.

The carpet cushioned the blow as Trudy's head bounced into it. Beth was all over her shaken foe, twisting limbs with mindless ferocity. Trudy panicked, writhing senselessly.

*(Continued on page 46)*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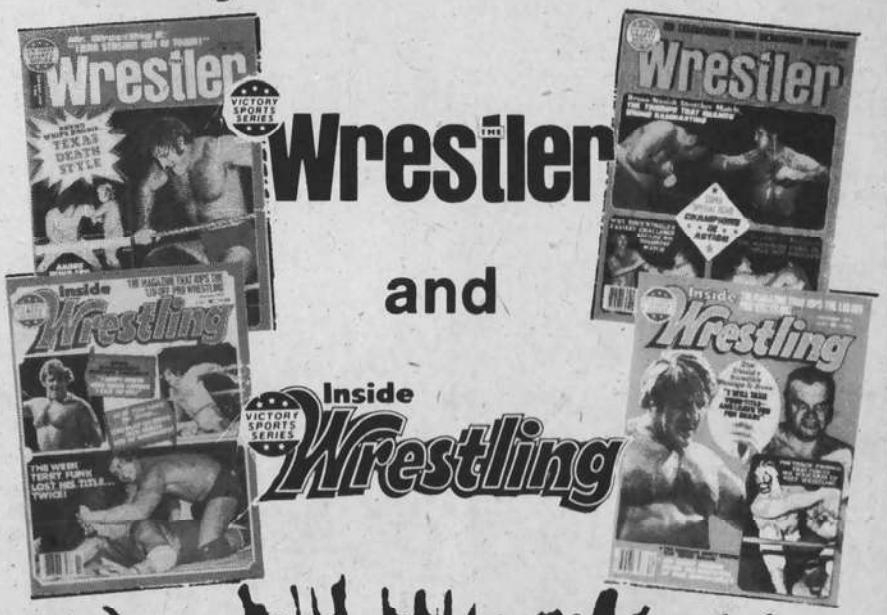


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# SAVAGE GIRLS

(Continued from Page 45)

Beth, in full command, wrapped one arm around Trudy's neck and her other around the victim's thigh. Beth's fingers dug into the alabaster flesh of Trudy's thigh, forcing a cry of pain from the tormented beauty. It was a hideous sound, as the choked brunette's cry muffled in her throat.

Beth's brutality, the building rage of many years, displayed itself in awesome horror. Trudy's lithe body writhed and flopped, desperately trying to escape the hold. Tears streaked down the brunette victim's face. The tormented anguish spurred Beth on to further cruelty.

There was no thought now of the spectators. Beth was locked in primal battle with a woman

**Gasps of oxygen mixed with blood and saliva consume Beth's lips as she tries to struggle free (above). (Below) Trudy prepares to turn Beth into a tan pancake.**

she didn't know or care about. Yet, something in the beauty's soul drove her to torture this hapless victim. It was cruel rage in its most horrifying purity. Trudy realized she wasn't wrestling a woman; her opponent was a merciless energy.

Beth tired of the hold, instinctively sensing Trudy was nearing surrender. The tormentor sprung to her feet, towering over the fallen victim. Then, with the style of a soccer star, she drove her foot hard into Trudy's belly. The brunette withered into a fetal position, her cries now given free reign to escape at their loudest volume. This wasn't a battle but a beating.

*(Continued on page 48)*


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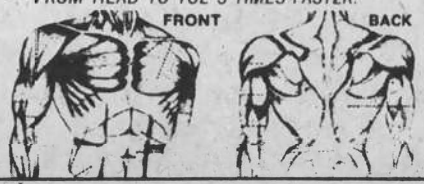

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# SAVAGE GIRLS

(Continued from Page 47)

**The immense savagery of these two she-lions is evident from the torturous cruelty they use upon each other. Even while her stomach is about to be gnawed bloody, Beth manages to grasp Trudy's leg and wrench it out of its socket. Beth's left hand is gouging flesh from Trudy's thigh.**

Beth stood away. Trudy gloried in the seconds without agony. Then her opponent's voice creased the air.

"Get up!" Beth yelled. "It's not over! Not yet!"

For a moment, Trudy looked ready to surrender. No woman had to stand this torture. But something inside her, a strength never before revealed, commanded her to rise. One could see the look of surprise on Trudy's face as she realized she was going to continue.

Beth stalked like a lioness spying wounded prey. She rushed at Trudy, feet flying. However, in her rush to maim, the kick was short and Beth's beautiful leg hit nothing but air. Off-balance, there was nothing she could do to stop Trudy's counterattack.

As if guided by animal instinct, Trudy did exactly the right thing. With all her strength, she sent her fist hard into Beth's belly. As if shot by a gun, Beth went down.

Trudy leaped on her foe. The two weakened women grappled furiously across the carpet. They

Legs spread wide apart, Trudy resembles a human wishbone about to be torn apart by the bestial ferociousness of her berserk opponent.

were a tangle of arms, legs, and teeth. No flesh remained untouched in their swirling ferocity. They slithered over each other as sweat lubricated every movement. Faces reflected the savagery, as two beauties tore at each other furiously. Incredibly, the longer this brawl went on, the stronger both women seemed to get. It was as if they were feeding on their own fury.

Beth couldn't have cared

*(Continued on page 50)*

Trudy bellows the war cry of victory as she places her foot deep within Beth's back. Beth attempts to free herself by tearing at Trudy's stomach.


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# SAVAGE GIRLS

(Continued from Page 49)

Her pinning attempt aborted by Beth's graceful agility, Trudy finds herself twisted into a vulnerable position, pinioned by Beth's clawing holds. Beth's hands slip down toward Trudy's rear, fingers eager to draw blood from the soft, white derriere.

about the spectators at this point, but she commanded their full attention. The room was draped in awed silence.

The two women separated, as if the energy they generated forced them apart. Each stayed on all fours at opposite ends of the room, staring angrily at her opponent. As if on signal, the women stood up and rushed at each other. The smacking sound of sweating flesh in collision echoed throughout the room. The two women locked in mid-air and crumpled to the carpet.

First Beth gained the advantage, then Trudy won the upper hand. Neither woman could dominate the other for long. The match looked as if it might go on forever.

Then Beth marshalled some force from deep within her. No one had to be told this was the beginning of the end. Her eyes blazed and each movement had awesome power. It was a symphony of fury.

It started when Beth grabbed Trudy's ankles and spread the beauty's legs wide apart. The victim's back arched in agony as she felt as if her body would be broken in two. Every muscle and nerve in her legs screamed with agony. The smile on Beth's face told the world there would be no mercy.

With savage intensity, Beth worked on her victim's legs, pulling, tearing, scratching, and yanking. Trudy's hands flew over her tormentor's body, desperately trying to discover some

vulnerability, some reason for hope. But Beth's determination was her armor; Trudy couldn't penetrate it.

When Trudy's legs were reduced to limbs of pain, Beth went to work on her opponent's arms. She yanked and twisted until every joint in Trudy's arms ached.

Then came the headlock.

Those who saw it will never forget. Beth's arms encircled Trudy's head as the tormentor's bicep dug into her victim's jaw. One could see Trudy struggle vainly to bite the soft flesh of Beth's mid-section, but the jaw couldn't close. Spittle tinged scarlet dripped from Trudy's sensuous mouth. Beth trembled with her power as she squeezed ever tighter.

Finally, Beth allowed Trudy to fall to the carpet. Nothing was going to let Trudy rise again. The woman was finished. Beth was victorious.

This was to be her moment. It had all been leading to the instant when she could confront these greedy bloodsuckers. Her life had been dissected by their selfishness. These were her father's peers. After his death, they were her father's parasites. Now was her moment.

Yet she said nothing. Her rage had been spent in battle. Those three men whom she recognized weren't worth revenge. As for the rest, why give them the thrill of seeing her raw agony? Some things were better left unsaid.

Inexplicably to all but herself, Beth helped Trudy into the bedroom. Battle had forged a sisterhood between them no spectator could understand. Trudy understood. She trusted the helping hand completely.

As the ladies left, one of the men murmered, "I'd hate to have Beth angry at me!" His friends laughed at the joke. □


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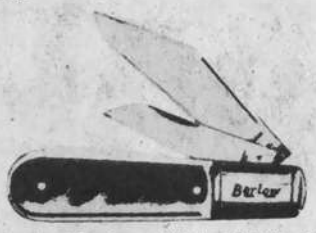


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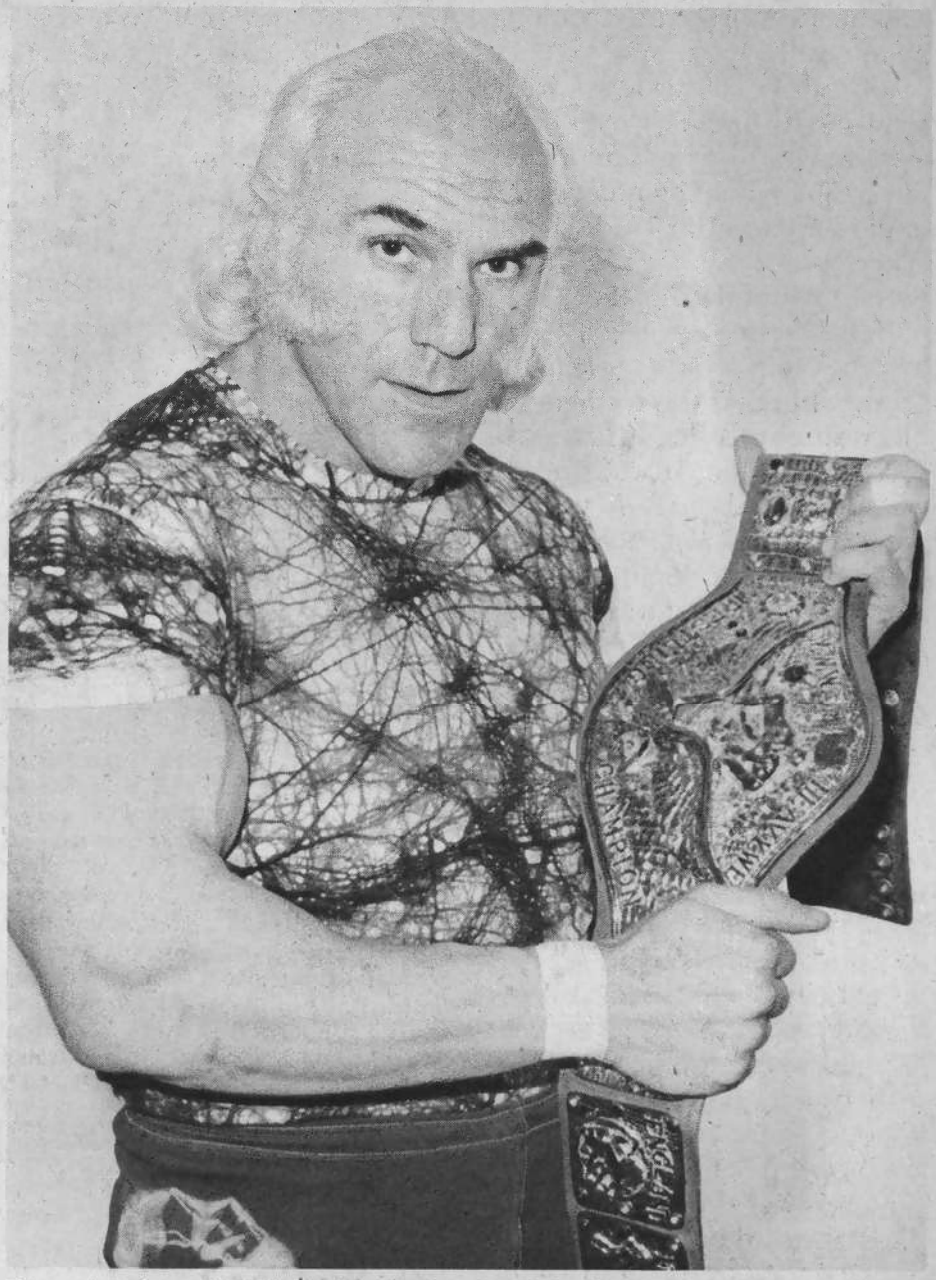
*(Continued from Page 8)*



**Where does Superstar Billy Graham go from here? One fan suggests that the ex-champ go to a much warmer climate [see the letter]. Graham plans to keep wrestling regularly at this point and win one of the three major world heavyweight titles.**

that he doesn't deserve anymore title matches. He should stay where he is, a complaining mediocre grappler.

BART FIGEROA
Fayetteville, Ark.

**GO TO HELL, BILLY**

There is a fun spot I think Superstar Billy Graham should go to. Hell. It's a nice warm climate where he can get a more even tan and his blond hair will stay golden. "Where Does He Go From Here?" (July 1978) you ask? What's wrong with my generation?

In hell, Graham will meet other similarly evil people. Couldn't you see Superstar and Nero in a cage match? I sure can.

Pass these suggestions on to Billy. I'm sure someone will read them to him.

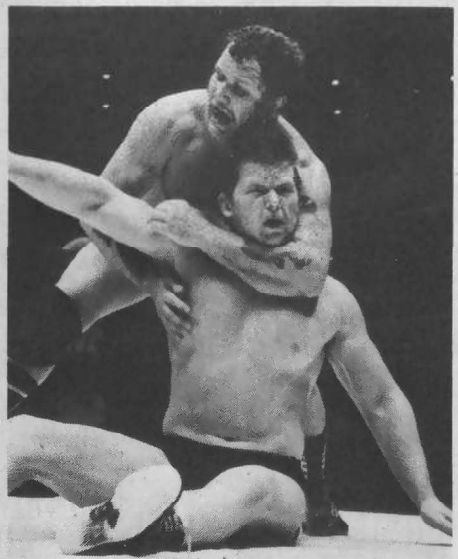
ELLEN SHEINER
Jersey City, N.J.

## BIG DEAL

A guy does one decent thing in his whole crummy life and you dumbbells say, "Read This Story And You'll Never Hate Ken Patera Again" (July 1978). Finally Patera does a decent thing and you want to make him a saint.

What about all the guys he's crippled and maimed and hurt real bad? Suddenly you forgot all that, huh? He's a disgusting ape and I bet he had ulterior motives for doing what he did. I can't believe Patera would do a nice thing for anyone.

CYNTHIA HAINES
Amarillo, Tex.



**Many people have great respect for WWWF champion Bob Backlund because he took on the challenge of Harley Race.**

## A MAN TO RESPECT

Nowadays, the sanctity of a contract is repeatedly violated by greedy sports athletes. They sign a contract and treat it like yesterday's toilet paper. That was why I was actually glad to read "They Forced Me To Wrestle Harley Race" (July 1978).

Bob Backlund showed he is a man of honor by his willingness to honor Graham's prior contractual commitment to grapple with Race. Any other man would have found an excuse. But Backlund is no ordinary man. He is a giant.

JAMES RHODE
Nashville, Tenn. □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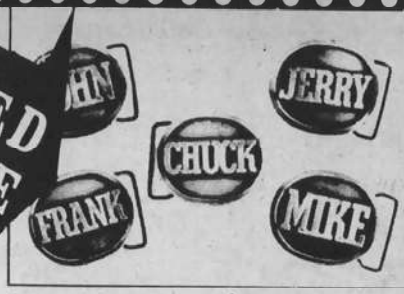


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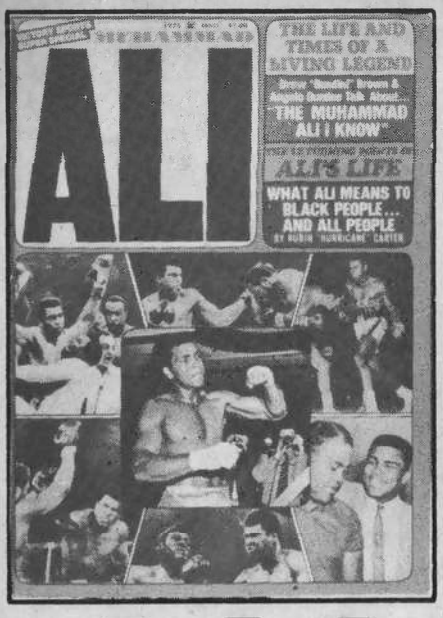


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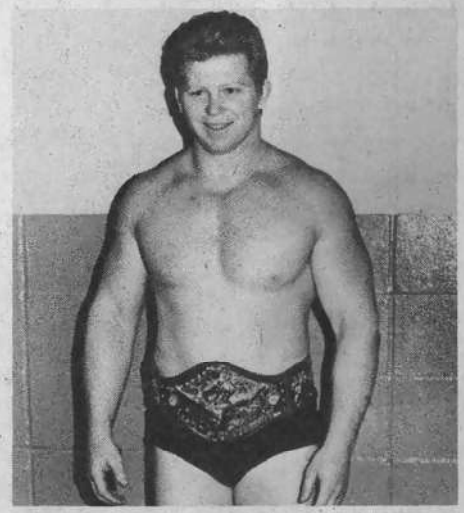
# THE TATTLER

*(Continued from Page 10)*

Recently, I asked Race about this. He said, "Nick Bockwinkle is a good champion, and I respect what he has done. But I resent what he is doing now. He should go back to the AWA. He should leave me alone. I have already put my title on the line against Superstar Graham and Bob Backlund. I do not want to face any more association champions."

Will Nick ever leave us? We really wish he would!

***—James Washington***



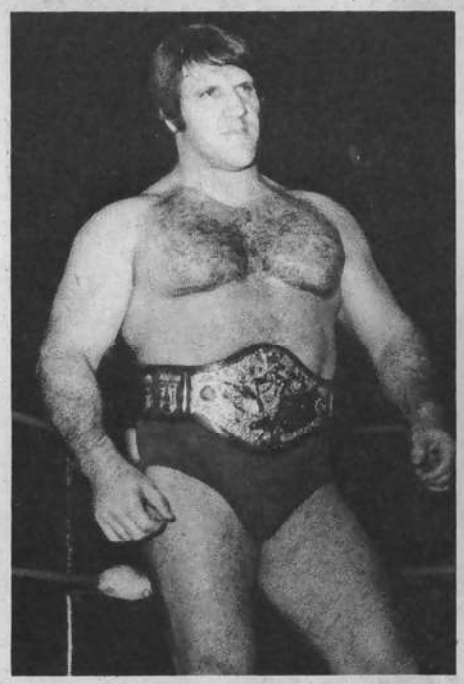
**BOB BACKLUND**

**PITTSBURGH, PA.**—Rumors about Bruno Sammartino are all over the city. No one is sure whether Pittsburgh's Number One citizen will stay in semi-retirement, or whether he is planning to make a sensational comeback. Either way, the fans here will support him.

There is no truth to the story that Bruno has been having trouble finding matches. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Promoters all over the world are clamoring for his services. He can choose to wrestle anywhere he wants.

But Bruno feels he has a lot of time to make a decision. There is no pressure on him to do anything at the moment. So don't expect an official announcement from him in the near future. It just won't happen like that. Sammartino will probably be very quiet about his reentry into title competition. That is the way he does things.

***—Paul Dreiser***



**BRUNO SAMMARTINO**

**BOSTON, MASS.**—Nothing new under the sun. It was just like this when Sammartino was champion. Backlund is no different.

The fans want to see a match pitting Bob against Dusty Rhodes. Will this ever happen? Probably not. The promoters refuse to schedule it, claiming it

would not draw many people to the arena. Horse manure. Every wrestling fan in Boston would come out to see that match.

When are fans finally going to be given a small degree of control over the sport? When will we see what we want to see?

***—Kevin McCloud***

**RICHMOND, VA.**—This is not the Ken Patera we remember. The one we once knew was a good, clean, scientific wrestler who honored the rules. The one we have now is a vicious, cruel, ruthless rulebreaker. He should not have come back.

I used to like Ken Patera. He was an honorable man. Now he purposely tries to maim opponents using unbelievably wicked maneuvers. And he was an honorable man. Ken Patera has earned the hatred of all the fans here, and deservedly so. But he was an honorable man.

What makes a man change so much. I don't understand it.

***—Carl Salinger***

**MIAMI, FLA.**—Jack and Jerry Brisco are trying terribly hard to court the favor of the fans. But they have quite a struggle ahead of them!

They should never have challenged Mike Graham and Steve Keirn. That was an unforgivable act. Was their lust for a title so great they needed to put aside all their principles?

From now on, everyone will look warily at these two wrestlers. Jack and Jerry Brisco could once take the fans' adoration for granted. Now they will have to earn it each time they enter the ring.

They have a very hard task ahead of them.

***—Myron Roth*** □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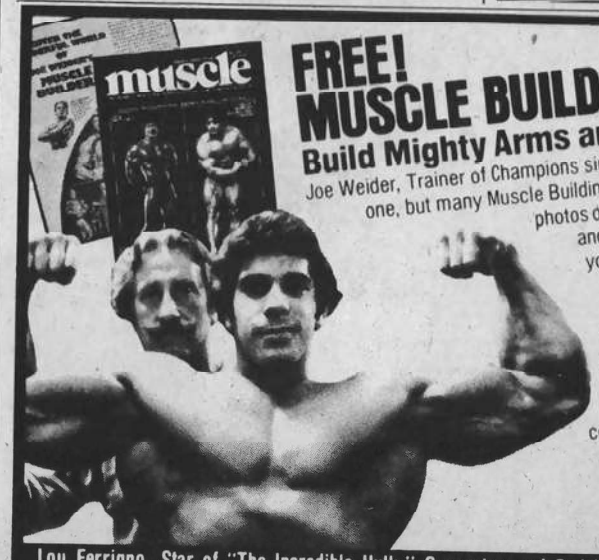

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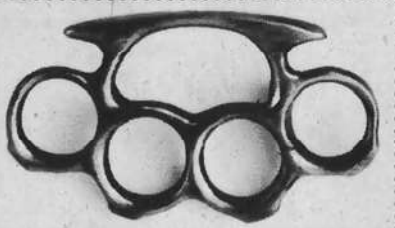

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# WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

*(Continued from Page 14)*

another thing if it would work as people have always told me.

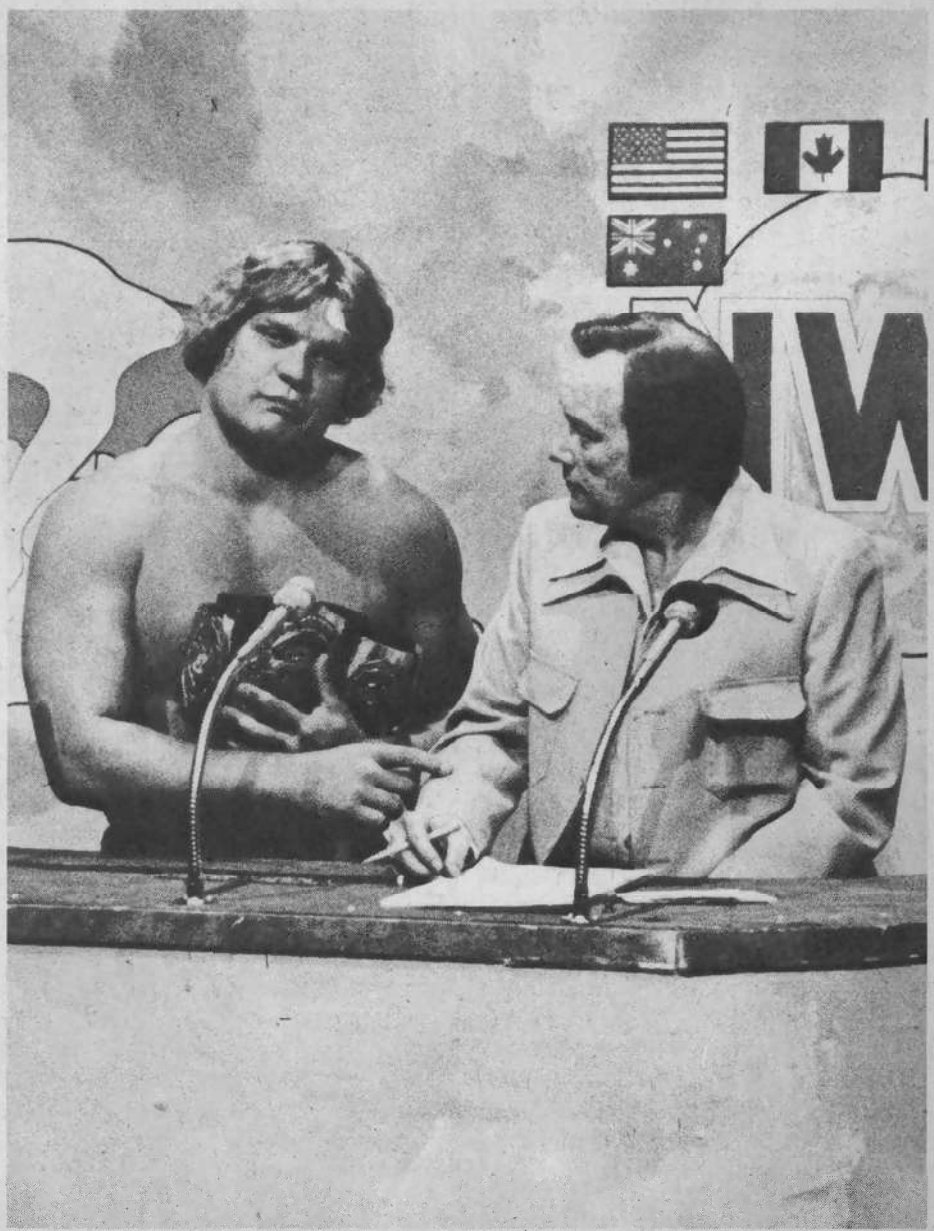
"One wouldn't be good without the other. I had to see. And I knew I wouldn't get an accurate estimation if I wrestled lames. My opponents had to be fierce, ruthless and good. Damn, seems I found a whole bunch of them right on top of the other."

Slater has always vacillated between the polarized worlds of scientific wrestling and rulebreaking. Throughout his career, he has learned that straddling the gray area between these two different forms is difficult and fruitless.

"I never really made the choice before," said Slater. "By trying to do both I got burnt at both ends and never was able to realize my immense capabilities. Now I have."

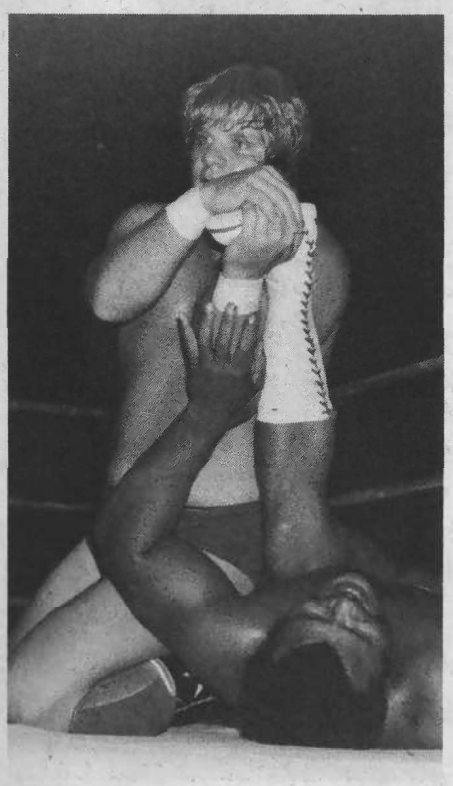
Not that this should be interpreted as a complete change. Slater's conduct would not qualify him for a cricket match. In his matches he showed that he is quite capable of ferocity and cunning.

**Slater is interviewed by Gordon Solie on "Georgia Championship Wrestling." Slater has a Jekyll and Hyde complex.**



Within limits, that is a crucial evolution.

"There's a proper middle ground for everything in life," Slater said. "I believe I've found the combination that works for me. My opponents know I can still go



Dick punishes Rocky Johnson with a leglock. Even Rocky admits that Slater is one of the roughest men in wrestling.

either way with them and that has to unnerve them.

"That's another weapon I possess. Uncertainty. I would never relinquish that. To do so would be to bury what I truly am."

Observers have declared that they haven't seen so effective a wrestler in a long time. It does seem that Slater has finally discovered the method which is singularly his own.

Still, while Slater may outwardly declare with unabashed certainty that his new style is more productive, he will admit, after much prodding, that there is yet another beneficial result.

"I feel a lot better about myself since I adopted this new way. I feel more at peace within. Now I'm the real Dick Slater both in and out of the ring." □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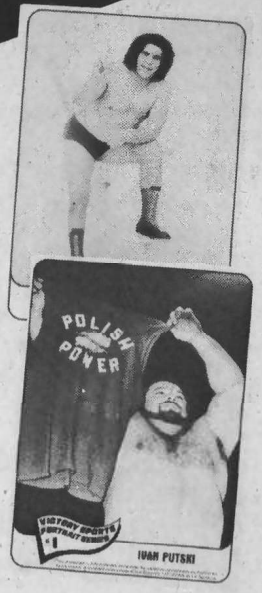


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WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

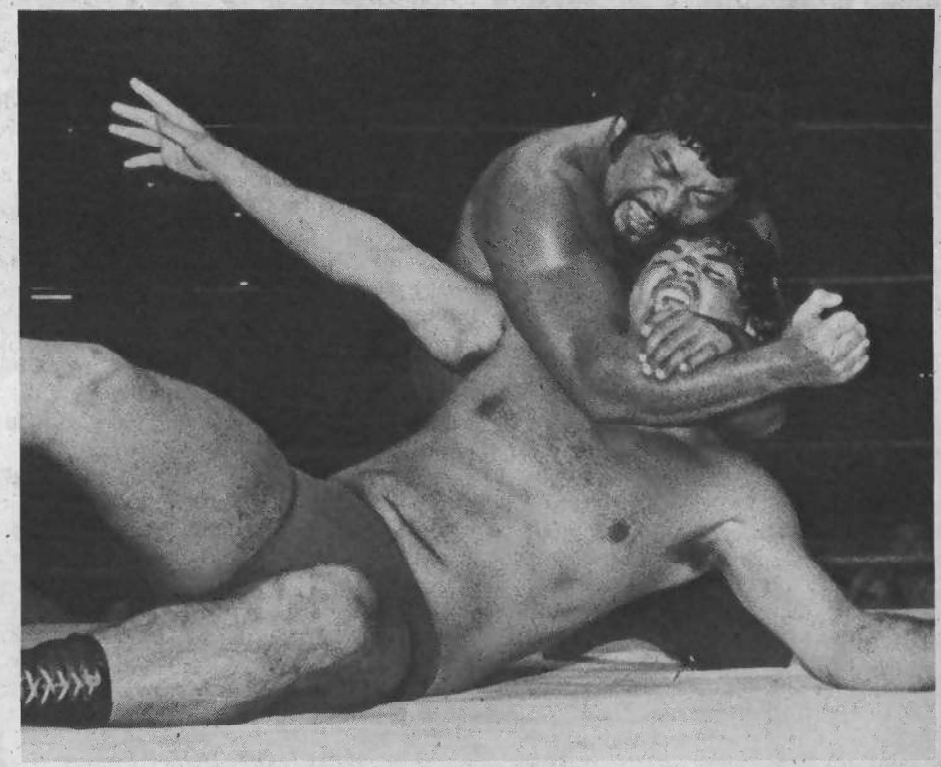
# THE BRISCO BROTHERS

(Continued from Page 24)

decided to silence the critics and re-route their careers back onto the path of honor.

"We really felt bad about what happened with Steve and Mike," Jack Brisco said. "We got a lot of bad vibes after that match and I don't think it was our fault or anyone's fault. It was just one of those matches that gets out of hand. It could of happened to anyone."

composure despite reprehensible provocation from their opponents. Though Mr. Hatori, the manager, jumped into the ring to interfere, the Briscos didn't explode. They waited patiently for the referee to disqualify Sato and Saito and then, when the decision was made, Jack Brisco took the microphone and addressed the surprised arena.



Saito has Jerry in trouble and the youngster screams in pain. Saito is using a Japanese torture hold, but it is not bad enough for Jerry to quit. The fans were 100% behind Jack and Jerry throughout this grueling and exciting match.

"We're sorry about that, but now we want to prove to our loyal fans that we're still the same good guys we always were," said Jerry Brisco. "All we want is the title. But we refuse to become rulebreakers to get the title. It will be a real test against Mr. Sato and Mr. Saito, because they know how to provoke a guy."

The Briscos' disqualification victory demonstrated that they have regained their ring

"No matter what our opponents may do, Jerry and I are determined to win our matches in the same fair and clean fashion we always have.

"We will win the tag team title someday. But only in a manner which will do honor to our loyal fans. And to ourselves," he waved his hand and, arm in arm with his brother, they walked down the aisle and into the dressing room, draped in the roar of approval.

When they returned to their dressing room, a pleasant gift was waiting for them. Standing attired in impeccable three-piece suits, broad, warm smiles etched upon their thin lips, were Keirn and Graham.

Solidified in a posture of mechanical astonishment, the Briscos stood by the doorway,

Jerry comforts Jack after the match when Sato, Saito and Hatori all ganged up on him, causing several minor injuries.

unable to enter or leave, unable to decipher the meaning of this visit.

"Hey, can't we say hello to our good buddies?" Keirn laughed.

"What's the matter, frog-face, my suit isn't nice enough for you?" Graham bellowed mischievously.

The warm laughs emitted from Graham and Keirn quickly dissolved the thaw and drenched the foursome in wet eyes and wet cheeks.

"You dudes were super tonight," Keirn said.

"Just great. Maybe we better leave the country so we don't lose our belts," Graham said playfully.

"You can lose your belts, but you can never lose our friendship," Jerry said softly. □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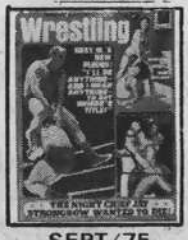
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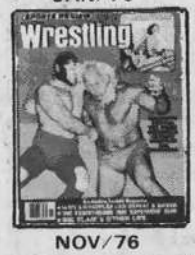
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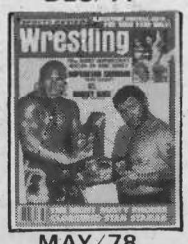
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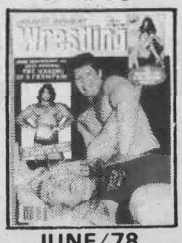
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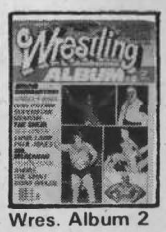
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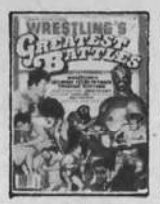
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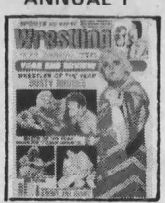
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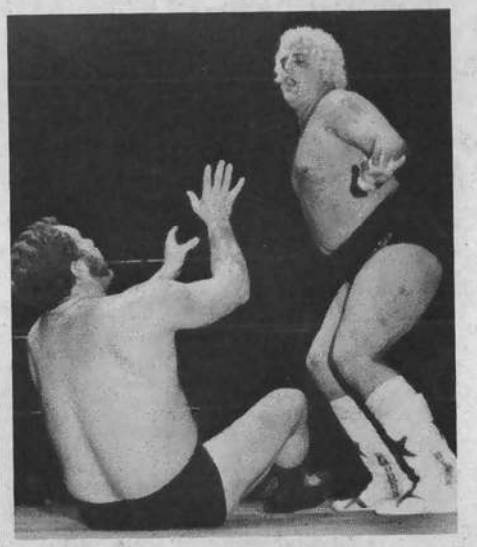
# DUSTY!!!

(Continued from Page 33)



Ken Patera is helpless (above) against Dusty for the moment. Race begs for mercy (below) as Dusty stalks him.

he started.

"Anyway, I'm sitting there, staring vacantly into my Coke, when Dusty comes over, introduces himself and sits down. We talk a while and he asks why I'm so down. I tell him and he just breaks out in that loud, easy laugh of his and tells me my problems are over. And with that Dusty explains how I can whip the rulebreakers. Imagine that. I never forgot that and we've built up a good friendship over the years. That's just the kind of guy Dusty is."

Each story was different, yet united by the link of love.

"The first year I devoted myself solely to wrestling, right after my retirement from football, I encountered a lot of resentment from other wrestlers," explained Wahoo McDaniel. "I could never figure out why that was. Maybe they were jealous that I was trying to make it in two sports, whatever, they weren't all that friendly. This was from guys who had been nice when I was just wrestling in the off-season.

"It was after an especially brutal match and I had been ribbed in the dressing room. I got real angry and tossed my towel around and started giving forth with a few well-chosen words. This here blond dude," McDaniel gestured to the grinning Rhodes, "walks over and starts rapping with me, telling me about some cool restaurants to go to, places to shop, things like that. Then he invites me to his mom's house for dinner. I didn't know the guy five minutes but he made me feel accepted.

"After that, all the wrestlers, taking the cue from Dusty, greeted me warmly and a bunch of us went out that night. I have Dusty to thank for that."

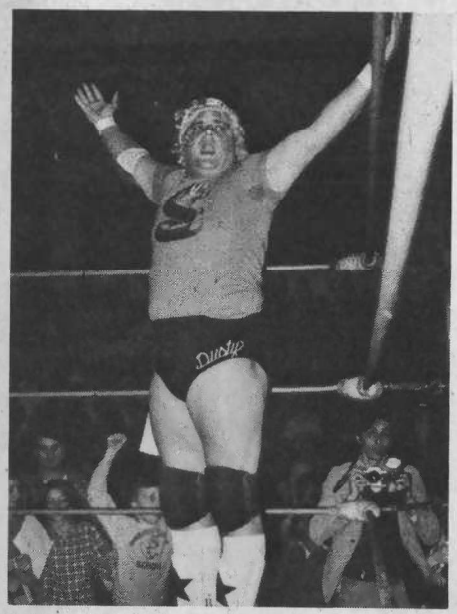
A massive figure rose gracefully from his seat and approached the center of the table.

"I had to endure a lot of taunting early in my career because of my size," said Andre the Giant. "But this wonderful man over here was always nice to me and always spent time showing me ways to improve my wrestling. I do not want to take up much time except to say thank you, Dusty Rhodes."

And then a princely shape tenderly took the microphone in his brown, muscled hands.

"I do not think there is any other wrestler in the world I would rather watch than Dusty Rodes," said Mil Mascaras. "The excitement, the grace, the skills he brings into the ring are a true joy and thrill to me. He typifies what wrestling is all about.

"I only regret that there are not more men like Dusty Rhodes. Not necessarily in the ring, but on this planet. I would feel better knowing more men were like him."



A favorite of fans the world over, Dusty will never go back to being the hated rulebreaker he once was.

Thunderous applause, amazingly resonant considering the small room, exploded and drenched the tearful Dusty as he stood before them.

"I want to thank all my good friends for coming here tonight to honor me. Though I feel I must honor them, for all the nice things they've said about me," Rhodes said.

"They say you measure a man by his friends. If that is the case, then I'm the biggest and wealthiest dude around. I do . . ." Rhodes' voice broke. "I do love and respect you all and hope we'll always be friends. Thank you all so much. So much." □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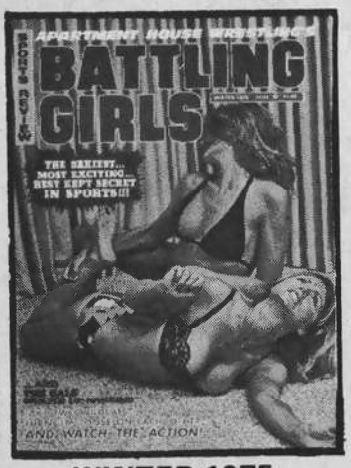


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# IVAN PUTSKI

*(Continued from Page 39)*

showcase his new style.

"The fans deserved to see what I was all about. Besides, Florida fans are really great," Larry said.

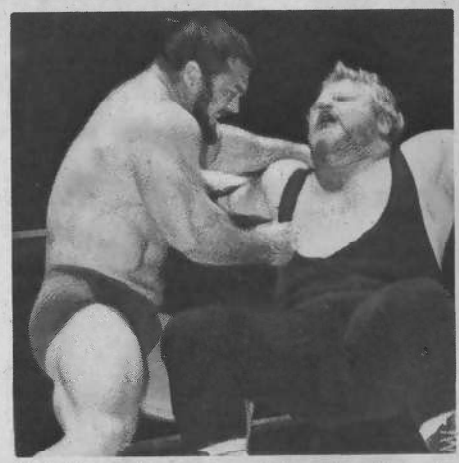
So the preliminary music for the Hennig-Putski match was one of gentle curiosity. Fans crowded the Florida arena in anticipation of a fine demonstration of scientific wrestling.

They were instead treated to a repulsive spectacle of unjustifiable brutality.

"I've been fooled by Hennig before," Putski told the reporters in the dressing room. "When we were both wrestling in the AWA he was always saying that he had reformed and was no longer a rulebreaker.

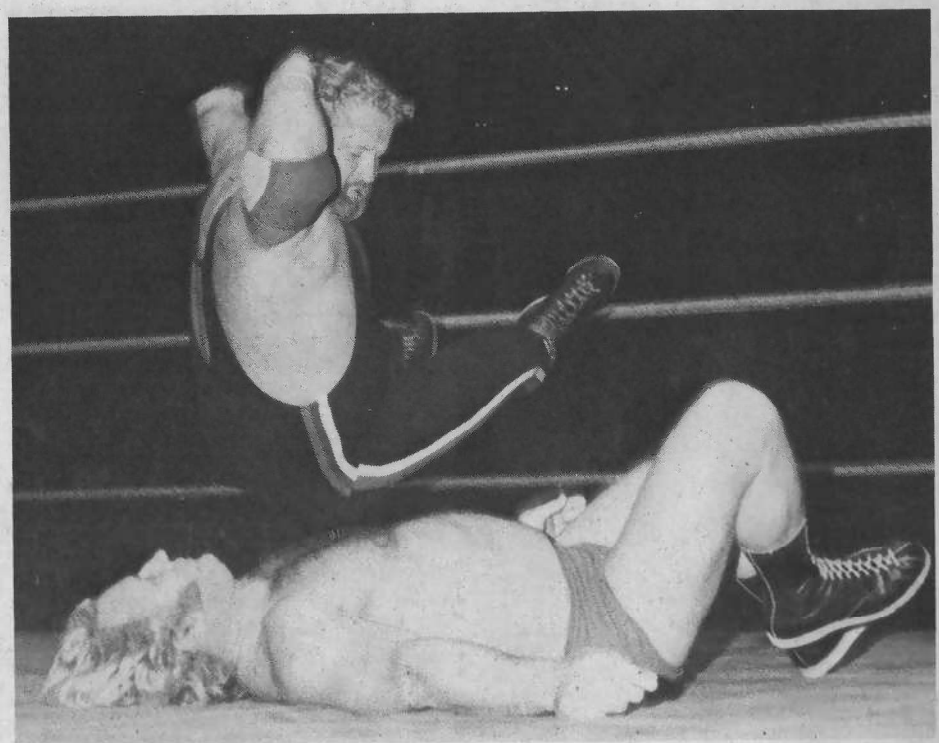
"You know what I say to that. My record as a gentleman is unequaled. I attacked him out of hatred. I did it because I felt that he was still a rulebreaker."

From the initial seconds of the match, Putski launched assault after assault upon Hennig. For his part, Hennig battled back, sometime lapsing into his old rulebreaking style. This both enraged and confused Putski, who only increased his semi-rulebreaker maneuvers.

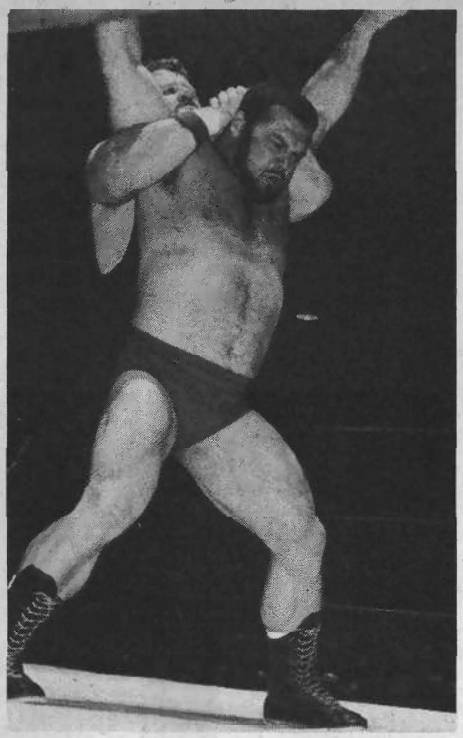


**Putski goes berserk and ties Hennig up in the ropes and then proceeds to punch away at his helpless foe.**

"I was expecting some dirty tricks at some point in the match," Ivan said softly, almost abashedly. "When it didn't come, I guess my



**In the AWA, Hennig is now a proven scientific wrestler and a favorite of the fans. Here he uses a flying elbowsmash in his match against the hated champion of the AWA, Nick Bockwinkle. The time limit saved Nick from losing the title.**



Hennig uses a full nelson, showing Ivan that he wants a clean match. But Ivan could not believe Hennig's overtures.

juices were flowing so much I couldn't turn them off. Maybe I lost my head. But I've been made bloody by Hennig too many times before!"

The frenzied gyrations produced the inevitable result. Putski was disqualified.

"Yes, I was very ashamed of myself," he whispered afterward. "I have never done anything like this in all my years as a wrestler. Never have I so disgraced my loving fans as I did tonight. Never have I treated an opponent with such meanness.

"I want to apologize to Larry . . . if he's really changed." His repentance was aborted by Hennig's presence in the dressing room. They studied each other for a long, awkward moment.

"I am very sorry, Larry. It seems I am the last one to acknowledge it, but accept this from my heart. Welcome to the world of decent wrestlers."

"Coming from someone like you, that means a lot," Hennig laughed, then winked. Putski's pale face brightened with the sound of laughter. □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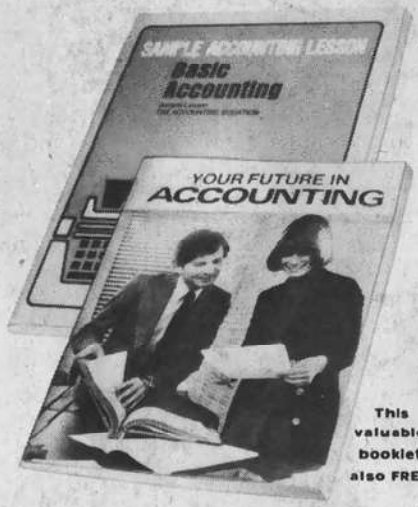


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BIG ARM MUSCLES?

POWERFUL LEGS?



MAGNETIC PERSONALITY?



BROAD SHOULDERS?

MORE WEIGHT?

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- ☐ BIG ARM MUSCLES
- ☐ TIRELESS LEGS
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HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE... ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL IT'S MY TURN THIS TIME!
WHAM! - NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!